

Time	Speaker	Transcription
00:00 - 01:25	Claire	<p>Welcome everyone, and thank you for taking the time to join us today. I am Claire Hopkinson, Director and CEA of Toronto Arts Council and Toronto Arts Foundation. Thank you to David Kolenda who is providing ASL interpretation for us today. Anyone needing ASL interpretation can pin david’s video block so that it is the largest on their screen. You need the “speaker view” selected in the top right corner in order to do this.</p> <p>It is now my great pleasure to introduce our moderator for today’s session, Maxine Bailey Maxine is an extraordinary leader in Toronto's arts sector, serving on a number of Boards and committees across the city, including the Board of Toronto Arts Council. She is the founder of the Toronto International Film Festival's five-year campaign focused on gender parity, Share Her Journey, garnering international recognition for creating a more equitable film industry. Maxine is a cultural curator, moderator, host, juror, general disruptor, and a genuine joy for us to have here today.</p>
01:25 - 03:15	Maxine	<p>Hello, and thank you all for joining us today.</p> <p>As we continue to cope with the crisis of covid-19, I am struck by our resilience in many ways. This global pandemic has brought to the surface inequities that have existed for many generations. It has drawn attention to the need to gather and to share resources, but also the need to listen to the experiences of those around us. Today, I am speaking to you from Tkaronto, which has been the traditional territory of the Huron-Wendat, Anishinabek Nation, the Haudenosaunee Confederacy and the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. This land has been shared under the Dish with One Spoon treaty, which reminds us that we are all responsible for taking only what we need and respecting the needs of others. As we discuss the next phase of reopening today, I encourage you all to think past the goal of returning to “normal”, and to instead ask yourself how this next phase of operational adjustment can be used to make our sector more equitable and accessible for your audiences and employees alike.</p> <p>Structure for today’s Session:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Claire Hopkinson (Director and CEO, Toronto Arts Council) - Update from TAC (5 minutes) - Sally Han, (Manager, Cultural Partnerships, City of Toronto) - Update from Economic Development

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> and Culture (5 mins) - David Absalom (Toronto Urban Fellow, City of Toronto), and Matthew Ootes (Manager, Event Support, City of Toronto) – Update on Phase 2, Stage 3 of the reopening process (15 mins) - Maxine – Submitted Questions and answers from our panelists (20 mins) <p>And with that, I would like to hand it back over to Claire Hopkinson.</p>
<p>03:15 - 06:10</p>	<p>Claire</p>	<p>Thank you again, Maxine. I will keep my update very brief, but wanted to draw your attention to a few initiatives that I believe will be helpful to those on the call today...</p> <p>First is #Lights-On. As Dr. Chris Gibbs from Ryerson University and TAC, and the City are working with a number of different live entertainment based organizations on #lights-on: Recovery and ReBoot in Live Entertainment project. Currently their work will focus on Venue and Public Spaces to develop an opening guide that is specific to Toronto and Ontario with a goal to be published in the fall ...for when more than 50 people can collect in one space at a time.</p> <p>Toronto Alliance for the Performing Arts (TAPA) is also hard at work preparing a guide to reopening for their members, which they are hoping to have available by the end of summer. Toronto Alliance of Performing Arts and their staff have been hard at work delivering surveys and collecting information on the impact that covid-19 has had so far on Toronto artists and organizations. TAC will share results and resources from TAPA as they become finalized.</p> <p>As always, Toronto Arts Council is committed to working closely with the City of Toronto, and indeed with all levels of government, both to advocate and to get timely resources, ideas, and information out to Toronto artists in as timely a manner as possible. The reality is that there will likely be multiple waves of loosening and tightening restrictions, until a vaccine is publicly available. We know this is a difficult time for all of you, and that it is essential for us to try to get accurate, up-to-date information out to the community, especially to Toronto's most vulnerable artists and arts workers.</p> <p>As we all look to the future to begin planning for reopening, I want to note that we must not stop the work that has been done to combat inequities in our processes,</p>

		<p>assumptions, and practices. It is everyone’s responsibility to engage in the dialogue about anti-black racism, indigenous rights, and the shortfalls of our existing practices. These and all other human rights are fundamental to the arts, and I hope that we can work together to continue to listen, adjust, and build a stronger sector as an outcome of this pandemic.</p> <p>Now it is my pleasure to welcome Sally Han to share an update with us from the City of Toronto</p>
<p>06:10 - 12:08</p>	<p>Sally</p>	<p>Thanks Maxine, and hi everyone. I'm Sally Han, from the City of Toronto's Economic Development and Culture team. I'd like to give you a quick update since the last town hall 4 weeks ago on what the City has been up to. On that day, June 24th, Toronto had just entered Stage 2 Reopening. Here are some of the important movements since then: Masks became mandatory indoors in Toronto on July 7th. As of July 13, CampTO launched and our colleagues in museums, parks, rec centres have started up day camps for small groups of children. Pools and rec centres have opened with modified access and facilities, the Van Gogh immersive experience opened, Drive-In movie and concert venues were announced, and operating guidelines for safe Drive-in venues were published. We are trying to get things moving again, but recognize that for a lot of arts and culture organizations, recovery is still a ways off.</p> <p>The Toronto Office of Recovery and Rebuild led by Saad Rafi and Dr. David Mowet has been consulting with many different social, cultural, and economic sectors. I’m sure many of you have been invited to some of those consultations. They are preparing a report to go to City Council in the fall.</p> <p>We've been in Stage 2 for 4 weeks now, and it looks like we will be in Stage 3 soon, though in the GTA we don’t know exactly when. That's the core of our session, but before I hand off to my colleagues, there's a few things I'd like to bring to your attention:</p> <p>First: On Friday July 10th, the Year of Public Art's brand, ArtWorxTO was launched, as was the partnership program.</p>

		<p>The City is seeking to partner with organizations to be able to animate and celebrate art in public spaces and places all year, across the city. Please go to the website to download the application and read about the program criteria. Grants of up to one hundred thousand dollars will be disbursed through a competitive process and applications will be selected by a committee. Please get the word out. The deadline for submissions is September 10th.</p> <p>The Toronto Book Awards extended its submission deadline to the end of the month, July 31st. The original deadline was April 30th but the pandemic delayed things. However, we are going ahead now and that's a ten thousand dollar award to the winner and a thousand to each runner up. Just to be clear, the Toronto book awards accepts all kinds of published books, from poetry, non-fiction, essay collections, short stories and novels, plays, graphic novels, monographs, and even colouring books, although I don't think a colouring book has won. Next Friday is the final day for submissions from publishers.</p> <p>Next week, the live music venues who applied to be included in the Creative co-Location facilities property tax subclass in order to benefit from a fifty percent reduction in property taxes for their eligible spaces will go to City Council for approval. I'm really pleased to tell you that over 50 live music venues applied to the program. For a first year roll out of the program, we were really happy with that level of uptake. Paying taxes are absolutely necessary to functioning civilizations so laws governing taxes are really complicated. Because we wanted to give special tax breaks to live music venues, we had to go about that in a very defined way, and the amount of administration between City divisions and the provincial MPAC agency is really significant, so we were really pleased with the response and hope that means many of these music venues survive the pandemic and are able to recover.</p> <p>There's also been terrific take up on the Cultural Festivals Recovery Program. That funding program launched in May. Our total requests now far exceed the available grants. So,</p>
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<p>12:08 - 16:34</p>	<p>David Absalom</p>	<p><i>Slides available here:</i> https://drive.google.com/file/d/14kfQMs64DH-GVedSwZ03FnKdTMk5ThWl/view?usp=sharing</p> <p>Thanks Everyone. I'm David Absalom and I'm joined by Matt Ootes to talk about reopening and what that means. As many of you know, the province is continuing its gradual approach to reopening and restarting the economy as outlined in their framework for reopening Ontario. The province has outlined three phases:</p> <p>Phase 1) Protect and Support was where we saw the provincial government putting these emergency orders into place. Then Phase 2) Restart; our current phase, where the province is taking a 3-staged approach to loosening the emergency measures put in place by the emergency order and begin to reopen Ontario. Then Phase 3) The Recovery Phase where we will transition to living in this new normal. Phase 3 is not to be confused with Stage 3. We are waiting to enter Stage 3. As a part of Phase 2) Restart, the province announced that they would be taking a regional approach to easing the restrictions in communities where they deemed it was safe to do so. Building on this regional</p>

		<p>approach in Stage 2, different Regions will move into stage 3 when it's safe to do so. In Toronto, we are currently in Stage 2.</p> <p>With that being said, the city has cancelled all city-led and city-permitted outdoor special events until September 30. This announcement includes Festivals and other large gatherings held at outdoor sites managed by the City of Toronto or other public locations. It does not include permitted activities issued by the City of Toronto's parks, forestry and recreation division in Parks and other city Facilities or sites which were permitted in Stage 2 as part of the province's framework for reopening. So if the emergency order changes, the City will adjust and issue permits in accordance to the provincial direction.</p> <p>When the time comes to enter Phase 3, all businesses and public spaces will reopen. We will also see that indoor gathering limits will increase to 50 people and outdoor gatherings will increase to 100 people. In all cases, individuals will be required to continue to maintain physical distancing of at least 2 metres with people from outside their households or their social circles. All of the businesses, services and public spaces that will be hosting an event are subject to the indoor or outdoor gathering limits and ensuring that physical distancing is maintained. People at their place of work (this includes performers, crews, etc.) do not count toward the gathering limits. A quick note; even though the gathering limits will increase eventually, your social circles should be kept to 10 people province-wide, regardless of the stage that we're entering.</p> <p>Based on the advice of the Chief Medical Officer of Health and other public health experts, the gathering limits apply to higher risk settings or activities where people will congregate. This will include all organized or spontaneous indoor and outdoor events and social gatherings (parties, fundraisers, fairs, receptions, etc). This also includes concerts, live shows, the performing arts, festivals, and other recreational activities such as going to the gym. (More examples are given in the slides linked above).</p>
<p>16:34 - 24:15</p>	<p>Matt Ootes</p>	<p>Thanks David. Just to add a little bit to what David was talking about... Given that covid-19 is a fluid situation, we wanted to advise that the City of Toronto guidance and the responses that we are talking about today are all fluid. As such, the information we are seeing today will continue to evolve as we move through the pandemic in Phase 2,</p>

	<p>Stage 3 and also enter into future phases of reopening. There is no one-size-fits-all answer for cultural events and venues as each has unique characteristics and the locations change in size and scope. So the response has to be tailored to those types of situations. Based on community needs, the City of Toronto in consultation with the Medical Officer of Health, can exercise their authority for more restrictions or requirements as needed. The province sets out the mandate for what is required as part of Phase 2, Stage 3 of reopening, however the city has some ability to add additional conditions if they see fit, or to work with the provincial government to address those. Even today there are people petitioning the provincial Government to potentially change some of those restrictions. We have to wait and see how those play out.</p> <p>The City of Toronto will continue to advise on future event cancellations between October and December 2020 and beyond in accordance with provincial orders on mass gatherings and restrictions. If they do raise those mass gathering limits, we can look at what permits can and can't be issued, provided they take public health and safety into account and are addressed through public health channels. There is a sense that some businesses in the sector that may have challenges opening in Stage 3. So there is a link from the province at https://www.ontario.ca/form/work-government-stage-3-reopening-plan where you can submit a reopening proposal if you're continuing to have challenges with the restrictions that you're seeing in Stage 3. Provincial government officials will work collaboratively with those organizations to see how they might safely resume operations as Ontario reopens, while implementing public health measures and workplace guidance.</p> <p>In terms of City Permitting, the City of Toronto's permitting division can consider permitting requests for small events through regular application processes in line with the Province of Ontario's gathering limit restrictions in Stage 3 of the provincial framework. Looking at the public realm, you have permits from Transportation Services for street closures, you have parks permits for utilization of parks,</p>
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		<p>and then you will have some areas like civic squares and/or civic spaces that can potentially be permitted through the various permitting divisions. It should be noted that just because you submit an application does not guarantee the issuance of a permit. Given that we are still in the midst of the pandemic, groups are looking at the applications by division and working with event organizers who are submitting. The point I would like to drive home is: the City and Toronto Public Health can provide considerations and temporary guidance for permitted events in the public realm, however it falls to the organizers to figure out how those plans fit into what it is they are proposing. That onus falls to the organizer. Each permitting division will look at activities being proposed and will discuss directly with the applicant. They may not have all of the answers; we are figuring this out as we go along with you, so please bear with us as we do that.</p> <p>Covid-19 mitigation and safety measures are a new consideration as part of divisional event permitting, however, they don't replace any preexisting divisional permit requirements, health and safety practices, or conditions that may be imposed. For clarity, although permitting of small events in public realm spaces by city divisions can take place in line with provincial gathering limits, the reality is that the onus of preparing appropriate health and safety mitigation plans in line with provincial reopening framework and local public health guidance falls to the organizer of the event. The City division will not be able to issue permits if the event poses a public health risk and potential high risk of transmission. The burden of addressing that concern to the divisional permitting officers satisfaction will fall to those who are requesting permits. With a second wave as a possibility we all need to remain extra vigilant in our efforts to ensure safe events and environments for the general public.</p> <p>The City of Toronto public realm spaces like civic centres, meeting rooms, and community spaces may continue to be unavailable for use to the general public. A full list of these spaces does not exist, so please speak directly with the permitting division who will advise on availability.</p>
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<p>24:15 - 26:10</p>	<p>David</p>	<p>Since the city's role is to enforce the policies that have been set in place by the Province, Economic Development and Culture has been working with Toronto Public Health over the past couple of months to work on guiding and supporting the cultural sector during reopening. This mainly looks like producing these guidance documents and recommendations that have been vetted by Toronto Public Health to support your reopening efforts. We wanted to make sure that all of the guidance and recommendations are grounded in evidence and adhere to the current directives, but it is not a source of approval. There is no office at the City who can approve that you are okay to reopen. The guidance documents do have some</p>

		<p>operational considerations for indoor and outdoor events that now include concerts and live shows. I would highly recommend that folks go on Toronto Public Health's website and review those documents.</p> <p>In addition to that, to prepare for ttsga 3, the provincial government has partnered with Ontario's health and safety organizations to release over 100 health and safety resources that cover a wide range of topics and workplaces. That is another great place to start reading when planning your reopening efforts. Toronto Public Health has also posted more guidance documents that speak to covid-19 transmission, general protective measures, and how to have a healthy operation structure. That may also be useful to you.</p>
<p>26:10 - 29:53</p>	<p>Matt</p>	<p>There is a guidance document specific to cultural venue reopenings that is currently under review. We hope to have it out either later tomorrow or early next week, hopefully coinciding with an announcement from the province if they decide to put us into stage 3. The link here will take you to the page where that document will be housed when it goes online.</p> <p>Obviously, there is a lot of ambiguity in everything that we are talking about here. The City of Toronto through Economic Development and Culture's Business and Growth Services have set up a centralized sector support call centre. As such, you can go to this page, put in your question and someone will be in touch within 24 hours to actually discuss your issue and answer questions or redirect you to the appropriate services. This link is actually live now, so if you have any questions please submit them there, and we will get back to you as quickly as possible.</p> <p>There is an email link for CultureTO Support, cultureto@toronto.ca where you can go if you have quick follow-up questions that you may need answers to in a timely fashion.</p> <p>Finally, a reminder that the responsibility of reopening is that of the proponent, and this includes understanding the provincial orders and regulations as well as assessing risk</p>

		<p>associated with reopening events, and actively implementing public health measures to keep employees, clients, and the general public safe. The guidance that we have walked through very gingerly today is the consideration that you as organizers need to look at when planning events, be it in the public realm or in your venues. If there is ambiguity that you need clarity on, that is when you can access either the city or the province.</p>
<p>29:53 - 30:45</p>	<p>Maxine</p>	<p>Thank you Claire, Sally, David, and Matt. We received many very thoughtful questions from those who registered, a number of which were duplicated. For today's session we have invited artists to ask questions that will help them in their preparation for live events. I am excited to welcome 6 individuals to join us on screen to give a brief context about their plans, and ask a question of the panel. We ask that each artist keep this context to under 2 minutes, so that there is time to hear from everyone.</p> <p>In addition, we know that you will have more questions - please enter them into the chat function. If we have time, we will move onto those. Now, I am happy to welcome Charles Hong to ask our first question!</p>
<p>30:45 - 32:38</p>	<p>Charles Hong</p>	<p>Hi, my name is Charles Hong and I am the Artistic Director of Ensemble Jeny Yi, a traditional Korean performing arts company here in Toronto. Our planned performance is part of Arts in the Parks, the summer initiative organized by Toronto Arts Foundation. We have titled our project "The Princess Park Balcony Concerts". The 6 members of our ensemble will perform a 45 minute program of drumming, music and dance in Princess Park, a very intimate park located steps from North York Centre subway station. One of the reasons that we have chosen this park is because there are 4 condominium buildings literally overlooking the park, providing an instant audience of potentially 100 people who can enjoy the performance from the comfort and safety of their balconies, with members of their immediate social bubbles. To reduce the potential of unmanageable numbers of spectators, especially on the ground floor, we will promote our performance only to the residents of these condos, encouraging them to enjoy the performance from their balconies. However, our</p>

		<p>performance will likely attract passersby. My question is two-fold:</p> <p>What measures should we take to keep everyone safe and to ensure ground-floor spectators practice social distancing? I can imagine much of this can be addressed in the Toronto Public Health guidelines that was mentioned a few minutes ago, but if spectators fail to follow pandemic bylaws and orders, and are ticketed, would there be any legal risk to our ensemble or any of the organizers? Does our performance insurance for the event offer any protection?</p> <p>Thank you very much for the opportunity to ask this question.</p>
<p>32:38 - 34:40</p>	<p>Matt Ootes</p>	<p>Thank you for your question and thanks for attending today. It sounds like a great initiative that you're looking to undertake on behalf of the community so congratulations on that. I'll answer your second question first: in terms of liability and insurance, you'd have to talk about that directly with your insurance provider to see what that might look like. Depending on what you are doing there is always potential for some sense of liability. If you are permitting out the park, there definitely is a liability there and that is why Parks, Forestry and Recreation will require insurance as part of what you are doing.</p> <p>To your first question, there is no "silver bullet" for what you're doing. To be honest, I'm not extremely familiar with the park you are referring to. But in general there are things you could do, like cordoning off the park to create an area where pedestrians can't stop and watch. I also think there are opportunities to work with the local community response division of your policing unit to make them aware of what you are doing and have them in the area just to support if you do see large numbers of people gathering. Based on the type of activity that you are doing, which sounds fabulous by the way, it would be the type of crowd that would be responsive and able to work with local authorities and spread themselves out. I don't know that you could go as far as doing something like they did in Trinity Bellwoods; creating large circles all over the place, which could get very expensive. But that is also something that you could consider as you develop your plans.</p>
<p>34:40 -</p>	<p>Maxine</p>	<p>Did you get some sense of help there Charles?</p>

34:37		
34:37 - 35:04	Charles	Yes, thank you very much. If I may ask a quick question - you mentioned that the large circles can get very expensive. We have considered doing it ourselves with chalk or something like that, but I don't know whether somebody was hired to do those circles in Trinity Bellwoods?
35:04 - 35:35	Matt	The City of Toronto actually did it through the Parks Forestry and Recreation department. It was about \$12 a circle to put those circles out there. This is something you'd need to talk with your permitting officer about, if this is something you are able to do on your own in a temporary fashion, and/or if you do it with large rope circles instead of chalk so that you are not doing damaging horticultural aspects. These are all things that could be considered.
35:35 - 35:45	Maxine	Thank you. I am now pleased to welcome Beth Helmers
35:45 - 37:38	Beth Helmers	Hi - thanks for having me today. I am the artistic Director of the Community Arts Guild, a community engaged arts company in East Scarborough. We are also doing an Animating Parks project this year in Fred Johnson park and our project is working with volunteers at the Scarborough Village Garden to create some artwork for their Harvest Festival. Initially we were planning to do workshops and camps with kids and some seniors groups, and people who we are obviously not interacting with right now. Instead, we have been doing remote oral history interviews with the garden volunteers, creating packages of art activities that are going to some of the residents nearby, and doing socially distant events in small groups with people who live close by and the gardeners. When I had asked my question I wasn't aware that we are able to get permits for any kind of event. What we are hoping to do in the fall is for the annual Harvest Festival; creating a physically distanced parade with some of the artwork we have been making over the summer. We would have some live musicians perform as well as some of the garden volunteers and nearby residents bring things that they have made and be part of the parade. Thinking about the

		<p>considerations for health and safety, we are planning to choreograph it with people far apart and only with a certain number of people in the garden.</p> <p>What is the permit for at this phase? Is it 50 people gathering outside? And what are the parameters at this time? What is the backlog on processing those permits? Would it be reasonable to get a permit for an event in mid-September at this point?</p>
<p>37:38 - 39:20</p>	<p>Matt</p>	<p>Thank you for the question. When we do enter stage 3, the outside gathering limits are for 100 people. That does not include the staff that are required to execute said event. In terms of the details and specifics of how to execute that if it were in September, I would reach out currently to Parks, Forestry and Recreation. To your question regarding backlog, truth be told, a lot of staff during the early parts of covid-19 were redeployed to deal with essential services. A lot of them are starting to be brought back, so you may experience a slow-down in that and you may experience a little bit of a lag in the time from when you submit your information and when they get back to you. But I have been told that Parks will take the permits and they will discuss it with you. Whether they will approve it or not will depend on what your health and safety measures are surrounding covid-19 and what it looks like. Once the TPH document comes out, it will give you a good sense of how you can create and devise that plan to execute what it is you're looking to do. You will have to talk to the permitting officer or put in an application very soon and they have indicated that as soon as we have entered into stage 3 they will start accepting applications.</p>
<p>39:20 - 39:35</p>	<p>Maxine</p>	<p>Thank you all - we are going to now be moving on to Michael Mori from Tapestry Opera</p>
<p>39:35 - 41:25</p>	<p>Michael Mori</p>	<p>Hi everyone and thanks so much for having me on. I am Michael Mori, Artistic Director of Tapestry Opera. We are a contemporary Opera company who just turned 40 this year! My question is about how we can make things simple. I belong to a group of Artistic Directors of performing arts companies in Toronto who have been meeting bi-weekly to talk about the covid-19 process. For the majority of companies who are used to working indoors, there is a lot of concern that there are few viable opportunities for engaging with audiences safely.</p>

		<p>Considering that the science has proven that outdoor is the safest, and certainly the numbers (50 vs 100) are already gauging that it is safer outdoors than indoors, and considering the relatively short warm season in Canada... Is there a way that the city and the provincial government can simplify the process for performing arts groups to have outdoor performances? For example, standardizing the process? Working with a third-party group who licenses it? The fact is that most of us work with a venue who controls most of the conditions when we do produce. Most of the organizations aren't venued organizations, so forcing everyone to also create all of the venue conditions by making the responsibility theirs to make audiences safe, is adding additional burden to a lot of smaller and fragile mid-size companies.</p> <p>So again, is there a way to standardize things or work with a third-party who standardizes them for us, to act as a venue for outdoor spaces that could include parks, parking lots, or any public spaces that are large enough to be safe?</p>
<p>41:25 - 42:25</p>	<p>Matt</p>	<p>It's Matt again - thank you for the question. I agree with you that when you're in a controlled venue it is a lot easier to navigate and when you do come out into the public realm, the burden that you are talking about is obviously a financial one in a lot of cases. The unfortunate reality for the City is that we are also in that financial burden area right now. In terms of standardizing it, I think that's an interesting conversation that we could engage in. Again, the various venues are permitted by different city divisions. Whether one catch-all program would work in a road vs a park is one of the conversations that would have to take place. I don't have an answer for you on that particularly, but I can look you up after this and we can have a conversation about that to see if there is any opportunity to try and figure something out.</p>
<p>42:25 - 43:35</p>	<p>Sally</p>	<p>It's Sally Han chiming in here - hi Michael. I think that's actually a really good idea for us to think about with some of the partners we have already brought on. The idea of creating certain kinds of designs for parking lots, or flat parks... in some ways the drive-ins were done that way, so that no matter what you are going to stay within the guidelines of 100 people. That is worth exploring. Like Matt says, we are working flat-out and don't have a lot of extra</p>

		bodies to throw at these things, but we do have connections with people who are interested in helping and want to partner. I think that's a great suggestion and we should try to follow it up with something.
43:35 - 43:54	Michael Mori	I did open this idea up to the group of Artistic Directors, and there was a majority of senior artistic directors of great organizations in the city who would be willing to be involved in that. I think there might even be some money that could come from our side. I think it's the reinventing of the wheel that might prevent a lot of companies from doing anything.
43:54 - 44:13	Sally	I think that with that collaborative group on your end, with some collaboration on our end, we might come to some workable solutions that are both financially feasible and logistically feasible. You're right, we don't have a huge amount of time between now and early November, for people to actually withstand being outdoors.
44:13 - 44:45	Michael Mori	But I think, to that point, if we can test it out now, that might be what we have to live with in April, May and June next year. So it's good for us to at least pilot something. And the other idea I'll put out there is: if we take the venue companies (the companies that are used to running a venue), and allow them to take over specific spaces, that may be one way to drive some revenue toward them while they are doing something that is their specialty already.
44:45 - 45:30	Claire	I love the fact that you're thinking outside the box and collaborating with a number of other organizations. I think that's the way we are all going to get through this. One thing I wanted to add for everybody is that our Arts in the Parks program, which we are managing through the Toronto Arts Foundation, promotes the work of animating Toronto parks grant recipients but also the work of others. So if you are doing work in a park, please get in touch with us at the Foundation, because we can support your work through our website promotion, and through other assistance - possibly some other logistical help. Please come knocking at our door.
45:30 -	Maxine	Thank you. Now we will hear from Michael Murray!

45:45		
45:45 - 46:37	Michael Murray	<p>Hi - my name is Michael Adam Murray, I am the Executive Director of the Toronto Musicians Association, a professional association and union of 2,900 musicians in the GTA. Our members were fairly encouraged by many of the guidelines in the province's stage 3 framework. We thought under those guidelines there was a real window to getting back to work with performances, weddings, ceremonies, bars and restaurants. We were wondering...</p> <p>Can the City of Toronto deviate from provincial Stage 3 guidelines and if so does it plan any deviations that could impact musicians and the arts and culture sector?</p>
46:37 - 48:07	Matt	<p>This is unfortunately a relatively short answer. When you talk about deviation from the provincial guidelines - we as the City of Toronto are subject to those guidelines as well. However, as you have seen recently with bars and the like, the City of Toronto can ask for additional conditions through the province. Unfortunately that is moving in the wrong direction from what you are looking for. The reality is that we have to follow those guidelines, so any deviation would have to come through official channels at a high level up to the province. However, there is in the document I talked about, a "reopening guidelines" piece that allows you to connect directly with the province to have that conversation as well. If there is an association or group, and it sounds like in your case there are many behind you, that may hold some weight in addressing that concern for your specific sector. I encourage you to reach out to them directly. Again, the situation is fluid, so it will all depend on how we enter stage 3 in terms of this. If you are thinking about stage 3 and need those guidelines now, I encourage you to go directly to the province.</p>
48:07 - 48:18	Maxine	Thanks Michael and all - next we have Heather Ervin
48:18 - 49:55	Heather Ervin	<p>Hi, I'm Heather and I am the Communications and Development Manager at Arts Etobicoke. We are also working on an Animating Toronto Parks program, so I am assuming this question will also be for Matt. We, along with our partner Delta Family Resource Centre, are adapting our 3-day Park Party model into 2 months of micro-workshops. The workshops will feature a variety of cultural activities and be multidisciplinary. The adaptation allows us to maintain a connection with our community while also</p>

		<p>keeping the impact and idea of the original project and keeping everyone safe. We have created our own health and safety protocol based on the guidelines from Toronto Public Health and the Province, and have been working on that in advance. We know that the permits for larger gatherings are on hold and won't be opening up until Stage 3, but we find ourselves in a unique predicament where we are in need of a permit for activities that normally wouldn't require one. For instance, these micro workshops at the park are only for groups of 7, but we want to have a storage pod on site to store our PPE and other health and safety items like our extra tents to spread out safe share, stanchions to demarcate safe distances, hand-washing stations, etc. Are there special considerations for activities such as these and could we get guidance on permitting for storage pods and safety equipment under this type of project?</p>
<p>49:55 - 51:00</p>	<p>Matt</p>	<p>Parks staff, in the permitting office, won't have specific guidelines around pod storage or those types of things. You would have to discuss that directly with the permitting officer, whether you could find a location within the park where you could actually store those materials. They would need to advise on where that can go. The big thing is just addressing their concerns as to impacts to the horticultural aspects of the space. Is there a parking lot nearby where it could be dropped? The security concerns around it being left there and what could happen if somebody breaks in or causes damages, are all things that they will want to know about. In all cases, it is extremely probable and possible, but you would have to talk about it with the public health officer.</p>
<p>51:00 - 51:15</p>	<p>Heather Ervin</p>	<p>We have reached out to start that process, but the answer was that they didn't know. Because it's not a large festival gathering and is for a small gathering, it is in a grey area.</p>
<p>51:15 - 52:12</p>	<p>Matt</p>	<p>In our understanding, even now under stage 2, our colleagues in Parks asked us to make it clear that they would be able to directly discuss activities allowed in stage 2 of reopening (which would include gatherings of under 10 people), and they want to be able to issue permits. I'm not sure whether Parks has gotten back to you on that particular piece, but if they haven't I would encourage you to reach back out to them. It doesn't sound overly complex - with your particular example you are talking about smaller numbers that are manageable within a space and provide a great community service. This is probably one of the cases</p>

		<p>that is a lot more manageable for them to deal with. I would be interested to know the result of it, to be quite honest with you. Send me an email at cultureto@toronto.ca once you have talked to them.</p>
<p>52:12 - 53:09</p>	<p>Claire</p>	<p>I think you can also think about partnerships outside the parks. There are going to be businesses who want to encourage people to come out, so there might be a basement in an apartment building nearby, which would allow you to use their space. This way you may be able to speed up the “knowns” in terms of going ahead with your project. You can still keep the questions going with Parks, but we know from our experience with Arts in the Parks, that it is quite difficult to get storage space within the parks. Some groups have worked with park supervisors for years on this. If you can look at work-arounds in local businesses, and try to make some alliances - I think we are all in this together - you may make some new friends.</p>
<p>53:09 - 53:20</p>	<p>Maxine</p>	<p>Next up we have Alexandra Iorgu. Welcome, Alexandra!</p>
<p>53:20 - 55:15</p>	<p>Alexandra Iorgu</p>	<p>Hi, I am Alexandra Iorgu, I am an Etobicoke Artist and I recently received funding from the Toronto Arts Council to make a community art project. After being on hold with the project for a number of months, and after consulting with respiratory specialists, I decided to go ahead with the project. I got a tonne of clay delivered to my house and I am very grateful to Tuckers Pottery for custom cutting the clay into smaller chunks so I can deliver it. So far I have delivered close to 800kg of clay to people who have signed up through my website. I am doing contactless delivery, totally covering myself and always protecting myself when I am managing the supplies. I leave it at the doorstep and then walk away. To deliver this project, it has been an incredible amount of work for me to promote it, make the how-to videos, make a new website page, make sign-up sheets... My question is - how can the City help artists like me who want to do a project in the community? Can they maybe create a platform where community members can see projects that are happening and maybe see a video about the project and sign up right away? Can they create a platform where I can showcase the outcome of the projects?</p>

		<p>I am getting beautiful sculptures that people are making - I forgot to mention - everyone is making a symbolic clay shoe. They are mixing the clay with forest edge seeds and then they are returning the clay to nature. It is an ephemeral sculpture installation - the sculpture is going to grow, and everybody is working in the comfort of their own homes.</p>
<p>55:15 - 59:53</p>	<p>Sally Han</p>	<p>Right now, with the city's covid-19 response going on right now, what we can put out through our communications channels is very limited. Even for ourselves - for example, one of the reasons why I spend some time today announcing the deadlines announcing the Book Award deadlines, and the deadlines for the ArtWorx grants, etc. This is because the strategic communications office is centrally controlling messaging that is going out, primarily because they need the messaging to be about public health and physical distancing above all, and then some about the reopening phases. We don't have access to our normal channels. Even within the Economic Development and Culture Division, a lot of our channels have been shut down on social media, etc. This is why, for getting news out, many of us are in fact using Instagram, Linked In and social media channels to communicate because we are not able to officially do it through the City. Even at the best of times when we are operating normally, the City does not normally undertake advertising, communications or marketing for individual projects. It's just a case of volume - there are 20,000 events within a year, probably more. We can't fairly decide a policy wherein we advertise or promote one thing over the other.</p> <p>That being said, there are a few channels that I would like you to be aware of. Right now, for special projects like what you're doing (which sounds absolutely fascinating) the City is putting out a weekly newsletter called CultureTO which is being put out with the permission of strategic communications once a week on Thursday afternoons. We are trying to highlight some of the activities going on in the culture sector. That's something that, if you send me the information, I can try to get it out in the newsletter at least once.</p>

		<p>One of the things that will be upcoming for you, and for every artist across the city, will be a much longer recovery program. We are looking to try to engage both economic, social and cultural groups across the whole city. That may be a platform later on - it is not immediately available right now.</p> <p>I would also point to other channels like Claire’s own Neighbourhood Arts Network, in order to amplify your message. One of the things that the City is very concerned about, is the lack of ability for people in their own neighbourhoods to connect with local activities and artists. Especially when people are doing much of their searching online, that issue of discoverability, of you being able to advertise within your own networks, and being amplified and picked up. That is really hard right now. We are trying to work with partners to start a pilot project to increase the discoverability of Toronto Arts and Culture to Toronto neighbourhoods. It’s not that far along yet, but we do believe that it’s a really important problem that you have mentioned.</p> <p>Finally, there are a lot of local-based social media platforms. Things like “Next Door”, various Whats-App chat groups, very specific geographically based Facebook groups and such - those are the only other channels I know where you can directly contact your neighbours. I am amazed by how much clay delivery you have done - that’s fantastic! So in terms of doing those types of things, trying at least to use some of the existing online networks that are based around your local community. In my community there are at least 7 different existing platforms that people use to communicate their local neighbourhood stuff. If there’s a BIA in your neighbourhood, that is also a good group.</p>
<p>59:53 - 1:00:19</p>	<p>Alexandra Iorgu</p>	<p>Thank you. I have tried all those and usually I get 5-10 people signed up before it gets covered by other content. It would be nice if it could be official because it was a grant from the City of Toronto. I would also love to showcase the work, so it would be lovely to have some kind of virtual exhibit to show the outcomes. Thank you for all the ideas!</p>

<p>1:00:10 - 1:00:25</p>	<p>Sally</p>	<p>Are you connected with your local Arts Service Organizations?</p>
<p>1:00:25 - 1:00:32</p>	<p>Alexandra Iorgu</p>	<p>I am, yes. I am in touch with Arts Etobicoke. They help me a lot. I took over their account last week to talk about a project. Thank you!</p>
<p>1:00:32 - 1:01:50</p>	<p>Claire</p>	<p>Very quickly because I know we have to wrap up, but it is a beautiful project Alexandra. I know that you want to honour the work of the community members who are expressing their creativity through this project. I don't know if Michael Mori is still in this session, but perhaps there is a way that arts organizations can help each other here? You are looking for a way to honour and showcase the work. Perhaps you could reach out to some local library branches who might think this is a wonderful thing to showcase. Or connect up with Joe Sellors at the Year of Public Art, if these objects will last up until next year? It is about honouring the fantastic work that is happening right now, and sometimes it is actually faster to move with colleagues. The Neighbourhood Arts Network at Toronto Arts Foundation could help you here, or perhaps reaching out to other artists and arts organizations that you know so that this work can continue to be honoured. Congratulations for the great work.</p>
<p>1:01:50 - 1:03:19</p>	<p>Maxine</p>	<p>Thanks very much for your question, Alexandra.</p> <p>We have tried to cram an awful lot into a very short period of time. There was an awful lot of information that was shared. I know that staff are going to transcribe and post the session today on the Toronto Arts Council website early next week. In terms of the presentations, we will make sure that this is also attached.</p> <p>I know that I learned a lot about the reopening of the City today and I think our keywords today are: Pivot, Ambiguity, Constant Change, Collaboration, and Be-nice-to-each-other</p>

		<p>And please, people - wear your masks. Please wear your masks.</p> <p>Thank you Sally, Claire, David, Matt, and the other David who has done some stellar work on our ASL today.</p>
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