

Time stamp	Who	Item
0:00 - 0:34	Claire Hopkinson	It is my pleasure to welcome our MC Extraordinaire for today's update, Kevin Ormsby. Kevin works as a dance teacher, choreographer, movement coach and Arts Marketing Consultant. He is Artistic Director at KasheDance, and is a current board member of Toronto Alliance of Performing Arts. Thank you for being here Kevin. Let's begin.
0:34 - 1:53	Kevin Ormsby	<p>Thank you Claire. I would like to start with a land acknowledgement. We would like to acknowledge the sacred land where we work, create and find breath. This land has been the site of human activity for over 15,000 years and is the land on which I have danced, administered, and support the Arts. This land is the traditional territory, Tkaronto, "where the trees meet the water"; "The gathering place" of many nations: the Wendat, the Haudenosaunee, and the Anishinaabe, including the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. We are grateful and thankful to have the opportunity to live, work and play on this land.</p> <p>In extension, I want to call into focus and honour the indigenous lands of the Americas and the Caribbean, in particular the Tainos of the land that nurtured my being and on which I arrived at birth Xyamaca (the land of wood and water) known as Jamaica. As we acknowledge systems of oppression on this land, and in particular anti-black racism, I am mindful of the indigenous teachings and philosophies like the Wampum belt and the Dish with One Spoon aimed at bringing us through diverse understandings into a shared collective presence and opportunity.</p>
1:53 - 2:40	Claire Hopkinson	Thank you very much Kevin. Welcome everyone, and thank you for taking the time to join us today. I am Claire Hopkinson, Director and CEO of Toronto Arts Council and Toronto Arts Foundation. We are doing these digital updates so we can help the arts community understand what is going on and take steps to possible reopening in time. I'd like to thank 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.
2:40 - 4:50	Pat Tobin	Hi I'm Pat Tobin, Director of Arts and Cultural Services at the City of Toronto. Along with me is Jacoba Knaapen from the Toronto Alliance of Performing Arts. You've met Kevin and David Kolenda. We also have Chris Gibbs with Ryerson University who is here to talk about research that he and the team are leading in the safe reopening of cultural venues to include festivals and performing arts venues. And David Absalom, who is a Toronto Urban Fellow who signed up to work with the City as a Graduate student working on his PHD and thinking he was going to be

		<p>working on Indigenous Placemaking for a few months. But as soon as we found out he had a Masters in Public Health, he has ended up doing some excellent work in that field with us so you will hear a lot from him today. Also with us is Tara Galloro who is with Toronto Public Health and is the resource person that Toronto Public Health has identified to work with Economic Development and Culture both on the business side as well as on the cultural side. Also, we have got two colleagues who are joining us from the Cultural Policy branch from the Ministry of Tourism , Culture and Sport for Ontario; Debra Lary and John Parsons. They will be able to chime in when we get to the Q&A portion to provide some information on the province.</p> <p>I'm just going to check with our stage manager, Rachel Kennedy, to see if Claire is able to drop back in or if you would like us to proceed, Rachel?</p>
<p>4:50 - 4:55</p>	<p>Rachel Kennedy</p>	<p>Let's go ahead while Claire is reconnecting. We've got Jacoba Knaapen speaking first so Jacoba, I'll hand it over to you.</p>
<p>4:55 - 8:00</p>	<p>Jacoba</p>	<p>Thanks Rachel.</p> <p>Hi everybody and thanks so much to the City of Toronto, Pat Tobin and his team for working so closely together with Toronto Arts Council and with TAPA (Toronto Alliance of Performing Arts). As many who are on the call today know, we represent 164 professional theatre dance and opera companies here in the city of Toronto. We have been consistently hearing feedback and questions from all of you - some of which we understand that will not be able to answer today. We are figuring things out as we go along. Things are developing and unfolding really rapidly, but one of the things that we consistently hear from everyone is that there is confusion and a lack of clarity around what to do and how to reopen. So TAPA is working on collecting information from across the country as well as internationally. We are aiming to share that with our membership[and with the City in July so that we can develop a kind of playbook and guide which will be a fluid document to help guide us through this. I also want to share with you all that the first survey that we put out in the beginning of the covid-19 pandemic in March, focused on the financial impact at that time with all of the venues closing on March 17th. It focused on what that meant for all of you who were postponing indefinitely or cancelling productions on Toronto stages. The impact financially in the City of Toronto alone, was revealed to be \$500 million.</p> <p>The next survey that will be coming to you from TAPA shifts our focus from the financial impact to the artistic impact and what that means to you in terms of the upcoming 2020/21 season. We are hearing anecdotally that a majority of you will not open before MArch 2021-September 2021. So we will gather information from all of you to understand what it means to open in ways of workshops, readings, performances and so on.</p> <p>Thank you again for taking the time to be here. I know there are</p>

		high levels of “Zoom exhaustion” so I appreciate you all being here today.
8:00 - 8:20	Pat Tobin	Just before I roll into an introduction about the next content, I just wanted to check with Claire who got abruptly truncated in her remarks so I just wanted to flow back to her...
8:20 - 8:37	Claire Hopkinson	I’m sorry about that - it happens sometimes but always at the wrong moment. Thank you for introducing everyone, Pat. Back over to you.
8:37 - 15:40	Pat Tobin	<p>Thank Claire, thanks Jacoba and thank you all, principally TAPA’s membership, who signed up for the call today. We were able to join TAPA at a previous Town Hall very early in the pandemic. We talked about liquidity at that time both to organizations and individuals. There was a lot of conversation about the fate of vulnerable workers in the creative sector, and Claire and the team were just getting off the board with the TOArtist Covid-19 Response Fund. Through that we also talked about digital transition and the work that the city was doing with Festivals and live music venues with some support to try to help people manage. We also noted at that point that clearly an important role for Economic Development and Culture at the City would be to try to help people navigate the cascading public policy around public health promotion and protection to first manage the pandemic, get it under control, and then phase in reopening such as we are experiencing today with Phase 2 opening in Toronto. It is becoming an increasing focus of our work. I’ve identified David Absalom who we are so lucky to have on board as we had no public health experts at EDC. I think this is something we are going to keep for the future.</p> <p>Today’s purpose is to try to bring some measure of clarity to a very confusing situation. You will have lots of questions and we will have answers to some - hopefully most, but we will not have answers to all. Where we do not have answers today we will take your questions away and will come back to you. Our main objectives are to outline how the system works, because there is a lot of confusion about what policy applies to what area at what time and who is responsible for enforcing it. We will talk to you about how that works and about what role ECD and Toronto Arts Council can play to support you. We are not a regulator and we are not doing the compliance function. Our role is to jump in and incite conversations like this to help you figure out what information you need and try to get it to you in a timely, clear and consistent manner.</p> <p>The main messages we are going to deliver today are 4 things:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The policies that people need to understand and monitor emanate from the province and the state of emergency declaration and subsequent emergency orders, the framework that the province has issued on reopening, and the sector-level guidance that the province provides. As the responsibility for health falls to the province, they are

		<p>the ones who principally set the policy and the timing about reopening.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2) It's on proponents, be they small businesses extending a patio at a restaurant, or a performing arts venue, to understand the policy as much as possible, and to make plans that adhere as closely as possible to the policy. 3) It falls to local public health units to enforce the provincial policies. What that means is that bylaw officers, in the case of patios, will go out and ensure that they are consistent with the standing public health policy as well as anything that has been issued specific to covid-19. So I need to underline that when it comes to individual organizations, the onus does reside at the level of the organization to figure out the policy and apply it, and that there is not a specific office of pandemic reopening. There is no one place to go with a business plan to have someone stamp it as "okay to go ahead". If that is frustrating, it is frustrating for a lot of organizations. There is an immersive digital media exhibition opening very soon and they have been breaking ground on this but it has been very frustrating for Starvox, if I can speak for them, to navigate this system. Today's call is our commitment to you to try to take some of the friction out of that system and to try to get you the information that you need when you need it, knowing that we don't control ultimate sign-off or compliance. 4) At EDC, we are going to continue to advocate to Toronto Public Health about what the sector's needs are so that as guidance gets issued for specific things like performing arts venues, it reflects what your operational reality is. Secondly, we will work between you and Toronto Public Health to communicate back and interpret their guidance to you as quickly as possible. <p>We'll get into some additional support later such as access to PPE and other technology that will allow for safe reopening and support the confidence of arts patrons to return. But it is those 4 points that I want to repeat: Provincial guidance is important to understand, onus ultimately rests on the individual business or enterprise, the City's primary role is in monitoring and compliance, and EDC is going to work with you to the full extent possible to try to make this system knowable, understandable and functional for you.</p> <p>So those are my main messages, and with that I will pass this over to Chris Gibbs at Ryerson University.</p>
<p>15:40 - 25:10</p>	<p>Chris Gibbs</p>	<p>Thanks Pat. In typical professorial fashion I have prepared some slides to follow along with today (slides can be viewed here: https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1yLboluyhCTJvpARbGW-Tt-2eOZUpQSwPzzisRXf_Glqc/edit?usp=sharing). So if you're looking to take online classes, Ryerson is open in September with online courses. Actually I'm teaching an online Festival Management course this summer starting in two weeks so I'm</p>

		<p>excited about the new delivery.</p> <p>Anyway, I am here to chat with you quickly about #Lights-on, a recovery and reboot effort in live entertainment. It is a series of outreach activities that the school of Creative Industries at Ryerson University, the Toronto Arts Council, and the Toronto Arts Foundation have embarked on with a couple of colleagues; Louis-Etienne Dubois who runs a research institute called FOLE; Future of Live Entertainment, and Shawn Newman, Research Manager at Toronto Arts Council. We came together with the support of an amazing roster of organizations including the City of Toronto, Mass Culture, SOCAN, Canada's Actors Equity Association, and TAPA. The idea is to bring together leaders and experts in health and arts organizations to support the entertainment sector in its recovery and rebuild. To give you a bit of a timeline - It was March 29th when we published an article about the lights going out in this business for the first time. Early in May we put together a grant application to the Federal Government to get some research dollars from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council. Our first project in June is to focus on venues, to start to identify strategies for recovery and reopening. We hope to know in July if we have got some federal funding but in the meantime the City of Toronto has provided us with some funding to hire some graduate students and to help us start to produce workshops and artifacts and resources to help you as businesses in this sector. You will start to see these in the August-November time period. We have broken our collaboration into 5 sectors, each of which has been sponsored by a different organization, so we will be working with these organizations and communicating back in these sectors.</p> <p>I'll report some initial findings. I have a student who has been working for 3 weeks now to follow what is going on online right now globally and trying to understand the impacts, recommendations, challenges, and inspirations that relate specifically to live entertainment. It's an unpredictable stage in this pandemic, but we feel that we can learn best from others and we are trying to systematically scan the internet. Some patterns that we have noticed already, and some things that you are probably feeling already is that there are lots of good guides. Although the City and the Province of Ontario does not have one, if you are wondering how to open safely, there are multiple different guides out there. We will hopefully be working with TAPA and others to "Ontario-ize" it or "Live-Theatre-ize" it specifically to our market.</p> <p>The public health guidelines are confusing, especially with different rules and different guidelines for each province. You will probably need to become an expert in it. Like Pat said, these will be published and no one will approve you, but they expect you to follow them. A lot of stuff about initial social distancing with sports venues. We are seeing in the States a lot, if you want to follow the 2 metre rule you are probably looking at 20% capacity. For most of you, it will be challenging to break even until it gets closer</p>
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<p>25:10 - 34:10</p>	<p>David Absalom</p>	<p>Hi everyone,</p> <p>So I'm going to spend my time providing a bit of context of how the system works in responding to COVID – 19, The City's Economic Development & Culture Division's response to</p>

		<p>reopening the cultural sector, and the responsibilities of the cultural sector for reopening.</p> <p>As you all may know, the provincial government declared a state of emergency under the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act on March 17th, and has been, as of today, extended until July 15th. So this emergency order is meant to ensure levels of government have the necessary tools to safely and gradually reopen the province, while continuing to support frontline health care workers and protect the public from COVID-19.</p> <p>While under this emergency order, the Chief Medical Officer of Health and the province outlined a gradual, staged approach to reopening the province, restarting the economy and easing the restrictions put in place to stop the spread of COVID 19. It outlines 3 phases:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Phase 1 – Protect & Support: Where we see the provincial government putting these emergency orders in place• Phase 2 (our current phase) – 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 reopen Ontario• And the Phase 3, which will be Recovery: Where we will transition to living in this "new normal" <p>As a part of Phase 2: Restart, the province announced they'd be taking a regional approach to easing restrictions in communities where it is safe to do so. This past Monday we saw them announce that Toronto would be moving on to stage 2 of reopening. Now that Toronto is entering stage 2 we'll see public health restrictions loosen allowing: more businesses, services, community, recreational and outdoor spaces to reopen and larger public gatherings of up to 10 people are permitted. Since the City's role is to enforce the policies set in place by the province, EDC has been working with Toronto public health to help support and guide the cultural sector during the phases of reopening. EDC has dedicated staff (such as myself) to be able to provide guidance and recommendations to support our cultural sector clients such as yourselves in your reopening efforts. In doing so we can ensure they adhere to the current public health directives. So this could look like guidance surrounding workplace sanitation, physical distancing, modifying the physical work space etc.</p>
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<p>34:10 - 35:43</p>	<p>Pat Tobin</p>	<p>Thanks David. Kevin, if I could jump in for a second - I'd like to add a couple of things. Sorry for the tough love messages up front but we are here to help. We are so happy to have David Absalom and our partnerships with Chris at Ryerson and with the Toronto Arts Foundation. A couple of other things to note: we have been working through this sector by sector and subsector by subsector. For example, we have worked to develop an issue-specific supplementary direction for farmers markets and another for drive-in entertainment attractions. So as soon as we think the province is opening up something, we begin working on it, we talk to the sector, we produce a document, we give it to Toronto Public Health, they vet it, and then we get it out to you as quickly as we can. As David said, there will be no one-size-fits-all and</p>

		<p>there's a finite ability for us to respond to every specific instance. But we will be working on producing such guidance for festivals, be that live music venues or performance arts venues, and we will make that available to you. Perhaps Kevin, before we go to questions, I'd like to check in with our experts from the Province and Toronto Public Health to see if there's anything they want to state at this point. Tara, perhaps starting with you?</p>
35:43 - 36:42	Tara Golloro	<p>Hi there. I think that was a really great summary of a really complicated process and of the responsibility and roles of public health folks both at the province and locally. We are trying to do our best at Toronto Public Health to provide the guidance in more clear language - some of the provincial orders are complicated to read and we understand that. Our guidance is to take the provincial guidance, provide more clear language and also provide some options on how you can apply those requirements. Happy to answer questions going forward.</p>
36:42 - 38:39	Debra Lary	<p>I'll just say that a lot of the Provincial material you're seeing is compiled centrally, not through the ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism and Industry. It is all at a very high level. We are given an opportunity at various points to provide input. We in the Ministry, in the cultural policy branch in particular, have been able at various points to provide information to the more centralized tables so that they can understand the sector a little better. But we are not in any kind of decision making capacity. I am here as much as any of the other participants, to learn today about what's going on in Toronto. As has been mentioned, it is different in every province and is very complicated. We have been providing information so that the folks who are putting out these orders can understand the complexity of the sector, the differences between exhibiting organizations, live performance venues, and the commercial sector. That has been our role; to provide them with intelligence so that hopefully the orders being put out reflect the reality of the sector on the ground.</p>
38:39 - 39:30	Pat Tobin	<p>Thanks Debra. The Last point I'll make is for people to familiarize themselves with all the links that you have in the document. The period from lockdown to Phase 1, into Phase 2, was long and slow. It will accelerate hereafter. The interval between Phase 2 and Phase 3 will be much shorter than Phase 1 and Phase 2, so it will be useful for people to begin to familiarize themselves. As Chris said, there's a lot of guidance out there in adjacent sectors that is applicable to the culture sector and will be worth familiarizing yourself with.</p>
39:30 - 41:00	Kevin	<p>Thank you David, Chris, Jacoba, Pat, Claire and David Kolenda. We received many very thoughtful questions from those who</p>

		<p>registered, a number of which were duplicated. We have grouped them into 7 separate topics and will do our best to get through them all. We've ordered these to start with the most popular subject areas. 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.</p> <p>1) The most asked question was about the requirement for performing arts sector specific guidelines. Alexia from Xspace Culture Centre asks: "Are there standard health & safety guidelines for art spaces planning to reopen?" And Jessica Runge asks specifically if Public Health will be providing guidelines for the performing arts as they have for other sectors. David, would you like to start with this?</p>
41:00 - 41:53	David	<p>At this time, Ontario hasn't developed any guidance for arts spaces to reopen specifically. The City of Toronto has a document for Cultural and Heritage Attractions so that may be useful to some folks, but there isn't a standard guidance for arts spaces at this moment. However, you would be able to find online some guidelines regarding physical distancing, mask use, cleaning, disinfecting and screening which are standard public health guidelines which are applicable to all sectors. This can be found on the City of Toronto website, so that's a great starting point. When the province does permit reopening, then the folks at TPH will think about whether or not it's necessary to develop additional guidance.</p>
41:53 - 42:20	Pat	<p>The Event Safety Alliance has an absolutely excellent reopening guide as well.</p>
42:20 - 42:48	Kevin	<p>2) The second most asked question was about timing. Some in the audience are hoping to open their venues this fall. Sandra from Toronto City Opera asks: "Is it too early to plan for in-person rehearsal sessions in September and a live concert in late October?" David - we'll start with you again.</p>
42:48 - 43:15	David	<p>Unfortunately that is something that we don't have any control over. This all falls under the Emergency Order piece from the Province. We can't estimate when things will be able to reopen or when you can start rehearsals or large gatherings because we need to wait for the Province to have that discussion.</p>
43:15 - 43:47	Kevin	<p>3) Matt Ferrill from TO Live had a few detailed questions that may apply to many in our audience today. The first: Will it be possible to reduce physical distancing requirements for those venues able to incorporate risk mitigation strategies such as plexiglass barriers between audiences seats, enhanced disinfection etc. Chris, would you like to start with this one?</p>

<p>43:47 - 44:38</p>	<p>Chris</p>	<p>Thanks Matt - it's an awesome question. I'd like to say anything is possible but it's not. I think physical distancing reductions will allow you to increase your capacities but I don't think Ontario will be the first mover in this space. If you want guidance, Britain has just reduced it and Quebec has gone to 1.5 - follow those other places to see what they are doing. We'll see what Public Health learns when those different regions of the world start to do it. That being said, venues should be looking to exceed the basic requirements for disinfection and other standards now and plan to exceed them so that when and if they allow for such actions like plexiglass then they are ready to go.</p>
<p>44:38 - 46:35</p>	<p>Jacoba</p>	<p>I would just like to add that we recognize that the majority of the TAPA membership and Cultural Industries are not-for-profit and are working with very limited budgets. Even at the best of times, before the pandemic, there's not a lot of wiggle room in those budgets. We are acutely aware at TAPA of the limited financial resources to be compliant with any of those PPE rules and regulations which are going to be dictated - being able to afford it is going to be critical. TAPA is investigating bulk buying and discounted access to PPE to ensure that no one is left out, that everyone has access to the training through #LightsOn, but also has access to the equipment to make sure that you're compliant. This has to be equitable and is the only way that we are going to regain the public confidence so that if you are going to "Venue A" you are experiencing the exact same thing as "Venue B". I want to echo that we know that this is a huge concern.</p>
<p>46:35 - 47:07</p>	<p>Kevin</p>	<p>4) Matt's second question is about testing. There are many areas within the performing arts sector, including acting on stage, where PPE and physical distancing is not possible. Will Toronto Public Health and EDC champion free and frequent access to COVID-19 testing for our industry? Pat - can we start with you?</p>
<p>47:07 - 49:43</p>	<p>Pat</p>	<p>Tara from Toronto Public Health will chime in in a moment. Testing is free for everyone in Ontario, and as the regime has gotten better it has moved from risk-based analysis around entry into the country and those working in high-risk settings, to now being publicly accessible. If you have symptoms you should get checked out. In terms of testing your employees, there are many essential worker settings where testing or at least screening is necessary, applicable and in points affordable. As we saw with the supply chain issues with the PPE, to the extent possible, it will be really important that we work collaboratively. That technology is going to be important in reopening both to manage the health of the public, the health of your employees, but also to ensure that arts patrons broadly have a high level of confidence returning to performing arts venues. Luckily, there are some technologies that appear to be potentially world-leading which are</p>

		<p>being developed in Ontario. Perhaps we are not dealing with the globalized supply chain issues which we dealt with regarding PPE. Jacoba's idea of consolidated buys is really important. The City will work with that, working with some of the big organizations which will need to buy lots and lots - opening up those orders. We are also thinking about some of this through a venue perspective. Everything we are talking about here is very expensive to apply, so certainly outdoor performance will precede indoors. The ability to find outdoor sites where we can build the infrastructure and then spread those costs over a large number of presenters, that will be critical. We are trying to figure that piece out right now for drive-ins and we hope to apply that same thinking as we get closer to stage 3 and 4 to see how that will work.</p>
<p>49:43 - 51:25</p>	<p>Tara Golloro</p>	<p>I'll focus a bit more on the testing part of the question. As Pat mentioned, testing is currently free in Ontario so anyone with even just one symptom is encouraged to get tested right now. As was mentioned earlier, testing is the jurisdiction of the province, so in terms of this ongoing free testing as we move forward into stage 3, I can't comment on that from the Municipal level. However, it does mean that screening for symptoms will be very important. Currently, Toronto Public Health recommends that all organizations, owners, operators are actively screening their staff. So actively means that you are asking the questions from the City of Toronto screening checklist for each staff, performer, or whomever is entering their facility. We also recommend passive screening for others such as customers who will be entering to view. I imagine those recommendations will still remain when we move onto stage 3. It's recommended that you screen employees every time they come to work. Every shift.</p>
<p>51:25 - 52:04</p>	<p>Kevin</p>	<p>5) This question was from Jaclyn from Arts in the Parks. She asked about permits from outdoor programming. Will there be additional conditions that have to be filled in order to get permits? Will Toronto Public Health have to sign off on permits? Will TPH provide additional support for events including being present to ensure the event is proceeding safely?</p>
<p>52:04 - 53:20</p>	<p>Pat</p>	<p>The short answer is yes. We have the examples of farmers markets which apply here so I'll use that as an example. The province allowed farmers markets in Phase 1 as essential service food security. The City of Toronto Public Health Unit didn't feel we were equipped to open them, given the density of the city. So we have just opened them two weeks ago and have provided protocols in hand hygiene, cash management, sanitation, washrooms, physical distancing, etc. So people have to read that and give us a safety plan before they get their permit. So we are applying additional requirements and it'll probably function a lot</p>

		like that. The onus will be on the proponent to do the homework and get ready for that, but yes there is likely to be supplemental requirements. For Arts in the Parks, talking to your neighbourhood farmers market will be a great way to understand how this might function.
53:20 - 53:54	Kevin	6) A number of you want to know about additional risks associated with specific art forms. Carol Kehoe from Tafelmusik asks if there is any further information available about risks associated with singing in public and if guidelines need to be different for singers. Similar questions from those working with wind instruments and dancers have been asked.
53:54 - 55:33	David	What we know right now is that covid-19 is a respiratory infection and that it spreads mainly from person-to-person through close contact from respiratory droplets of someone that has covid-19. These droplets can travel as far as 2m when we cough, sneeze, talk or yell. So with the current evidence out there some guidance has suggested that the droplets can be emitted from distances pretty far from activities such as singing or playing wind instruments which could potentially put those activities at a greater risk. However there is a lack of evidence on the exact distance of how far you should have artists maintain between each other and it is difficult to try to use masks while playing the flute. Because of that, a lot of the guidance so far has been about limiting exposure altogether; so having no singing or restricting singing and wind instruments. Dancers are a similar issue because of that close contact. Right now there hasn't been any type of guidance being put out there besides eliminating the exposure. When new evidence comes out things can potentially change, but at the moment there is not much available for those activities.
55:33 - 56:06	Kevin	Thank you David. I want to note that it is now 2:30pm, but we only have 2 questions left. 7) There were of course as well a number of questions about funding; will the government assist with the cost of PPE for both performers and audience members, as well as other costs associated with re-opening. Pat or Claire would you like to speak to this?
56:06 - 58:08	Pat	I think it's going to be difficult for the City to pay our way out of any component of this crisis. I don't need to go into the details of that, however, we recognize that this is critical and we have spent a bit of time on this call thus far talking about how we control costs. I think that is going to be the first thing that we need to do - to avoid small, late orders at the peak of a buying cycle. Watch

		<p>some of the first movers like Starvox who are breaking ground. They are actively prototyping some stuff that might have broad industry application. If that emerges and if it is not a proprietary relationship then the City can and should get involved. We are not the quickest procurement organization, so working through third parties would probably be the best route. I don't want to over-promise on this because this moves fast, it's complicated, and it will be a seller's market. I think liquidity is the crisis underneath the public health crisis, so we bear in mind that we need to make sure that organizations stay solvent and can make sound business decisions. Chris' points about being able to think about when reopening is a paying proposition is really important and layering over those new costs is a really important component of business planning. We will figure out a way to help, but I don't see us having a massive grant program for example to offset the massive costs of PPE.</p>
58:08 - 58:52	Kevin	<p>8) Finally - there was a request for a central information clearing house for all requirements associated with arts programming in the time of COVID-19. This should include up to date information on public health requirements for performing arts venues, but also for the many additional venues and kinds of programming engaged in by arts organizations such as summer camps, parks, libraries, community centres etc. Pat - do you know if anything like this is being planned?</p>
58:52 - 59:43	Pat	<p>Communication is going to be key. This is already complex and confusing and it is going to accelerate on us. As David said, if folks find this useful, we should do more of this as well as communicating through other channels. Toronto Arts Council has been great at pushing out its updates with this type of information. EDC has recently launched a CultureTO bulletin and will push this information out through that too. We will be using David, until such time as it proves overwhelming, as a point of contact to collect your questions and answer them. His email is David.Absalom@toronto.ca. Hopefully through all those channels we will get you information in a clear and timely way.</p>
59:43 - 1:00:06	Kevin	<p>At this point I want to say thank you for all the questions that were asked, and I want to throw it over to Claire for closing remarks.</p>
1:00:06 - 1:01:13	Claire	<p>Thank you so much Kevin for handing the questions. We will be scheduling another session in the future as things become clearer. We know this is a trying time for everyone and that things are complex. So we will do our very best to make it as clear as we possibly can, but still the answers are not necessarily there at all levels at the moment. I'd like to thank Pat, David, Chris, Tara,</p>

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		Debra and John, and again to Kevin. Thank you everyone for tuning in - we will see you next time!
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