

**June 22, 2020**  
**3:00 p.m. – Via Skype**  
**Public Email – [Covid19ReopenCity@brampton.ca](mailto:Covid19ReopenCity@brampton.ca)**

**Task Force Participants:** Regional Councillor Martin Medeiros – Wards 3 & 4 (**Chair**)  
Regional Councillor Paul Vicente – Wards 1 & 5 (**Economic Support Task Force Co-Lead**)  
Mikkel Marr, Director, Organizational Performance and Strategy, Office of the CAO (**Staff Lead – Moderator**)  
Clare Barnett, Director, Economic Development (**Economic Support Task Force Staff Lead**)  
Jason Tamming, Director, Strategic Communications  
Tara Hunter, Manager, Sponsorship & Corporate Development  
Kelly Stahl, Senior Manager, Cultural Services  
Jennifer Vivian, Manager, Brampton Entrepreneur Centre  
Jocelyn Johnston, Manager, Theatres  
Gregory Peddie, Supervisor, Events  
Kathryn Trojan Stelmaszynski, Advisor, Emergency Management  
Emily Sung, Advisor, Performance Measurement – Working Group Coordinator  
Chandra Urquhart, Legislative Coordinator

**Others Present:** Steven Schipper, Executive Artistic Director, Performing Arts

**Notes**  
**Reopening and Recovery Working Group**

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The meeting commenced at 3:06 p.m. and adjourned at 3:53 p.m.

**Agenda**

1. Introductions – Mikkell Marr
  2. Update on the Working Group – Councillor Medeiros
  3. Update from Economic Support Task Force – Councillor Vicente, Councillor Palleschi
  4. Questions and comments from the groups – ALL – Call for last question
  5. Closing Remarks – Councillor Medeiros
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**Introductions**

Mikkell Marr, Director, Organizational Performance and Strategy, Office of the CAO, and moderator for this meeting, welcomed staff and members of the public on the call. He advised that Regional Councillor Medeiros is leading the Recovery and Reopening Working Group and noted that Regional Councillor Paul Vicente and Regional Councillor Michael Palleschi are the Co-Leads of the Economic Support Task Force.

Mr. Marr advised that this meeting of the Arts, Culture & Business Focus group is the fourth meeting of the City's stakeholder consultation process for the purpose of receiving feedback, comments and suggestions from participants. Previous meetings included input from sports, youth and seniors' groups.

Mr. Marr introduced the City staff on the call and advised that they were present to respond and provide information on questions/comments. He reported that the City's on line public survey has concluded and over 4,500 responses were received.

**Update on the Working Group - Councillor Medeiros**

Regional Councillor Medeiros expressed appreciation for the work being done by the Economic Support Task Force. He recognized the leadership roles of Councillor Vicente and Councillor Palleschi and the commitment and dedication by staff during this challenging time on issues that impact the business, arts and culture industry. He noted that the pandemic has created a new reality for all and acknowledged staff efforts to continue providing online services and programming to audiences where possible.

Councillor Medeiros referenced the announcement from the Province that the Region of Peel is now moving to Stage 2 of reopening. The City will continue to take the advice of Peel Health Services as staff work to identify what Stage 2 reopening entails. More details will be available later this week as staff continue to work to prepare facilities and resume services for reopening.

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Councillor Medeiros explained that feedback is required from participants on how the City can safely and gradually reopen in these four key areas:

- What are your specific requirements as we move into Stage 2 recovery phase?
- What are your expectations and advice for the City as we plan to reopen?
- For physical spaces such as theatres, city facilities, arts and performing venues, what should we consider?
- Have you put into place any key practices that has helped you cope through this phase and any learnings that can benefit the City?

Councillor Medeiros suggested that comments/suggestions/advice may also be submitted by email to [Covid19ReopenCity@brampton.ca](mailto:Covid19ReopenCity@brampton.ca).

Councillor Vicente, Economic Support Task Force, Co-Lead, advised that together with Councillor Palleschi, Co-Lead, the task force developed a recovery plan for the City recognizing the significance of arts and culture and how its contribution can accelerate the reopening process and the City's economy. As part of the City's Arts and Culture Master Plan, they are here to listen and address concerns/questions and provide support wherever possible.

**Questions received online**

- When will the Rose Theatre be opened?
  - staff response – a date has not been determined, reopening is guided by information from the Province and Peel Health Services – staff is working with event organizers, and organizations on their availability and timing to present performances – in the meantime staff is preparing, guidelines, processes and handbooks for reopening – details on a reopening date will be shared with the public through the City's communication channel
- When will the City start hosting festivals and events in person?
  - staff response – a date has not been determined – reopening is guided by the information from the Province and Peel Health Services – staff will be reviewing the health and safety measures for Stage 2 reopening to ensure they are clearly being followed and plans will be developed accordingly – some events have resumed, such as the Farmers Market with strict health measures around safety and access
- What will the City be doing for Canada Day?
  - staff response – details will be available on this event in the next few days on performers etc., and will also include information regarding Transit schedules and technical details on access for the public
- Are there any additional safety measures that the City will undertake when reopening the theatre and bookable spaces?
  - staff response – a number of different safety measures are being considered to ensure safety for all – staff will work closely with the theatre group guided by Peel Public Health guidelines, such as washing hands and wearing

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masks and this will apply to all City's public spaces – this information will be shared with the public as reopening moves forward

- When will the Brampton Entrepreneur Centre (BEC) be reopened and what will it look like?
  - staff response – BEC services have always been available throughout the stages of reopening – a survey on co-working spaces was conducted and results indicate that there is no significant demand to reopen the space – same level of support is being provided for core services, remotely, such as, consultation, seminars and workshops – capacity and booking system etc. are being reviewed to ensure service is provided safely and equally

Mr. Marr reminded callers of the questions posed earlier by Councillor Medeiros.

**Callers presented their questions/comments which included the following:**

- Xerox – what is the best way to engage the City to discuss the services Xerox offers while acknowledging social distancing – they have communication platforms and collaboration tools that the caller believes align with City's objectives for reopening
  - staff requested contact information and advised the caller that information will be provided offline
- Noya Designs – caller is a member of the co-working space – a meetup event was scheduled for the space – due to the pandemic and with the assistance of staff, they have been successfully holding the meetups virtually for the past three months – would like to propose that going forward a virtual component is considered for the space that can connect people in Brampton and beyond
  - staff response – Covid-19 has enabled staff to connect virtually to training opportunities offered across the Province and all of Canada – staff are actively looking for online training opportunities in organizations, such as Invest Ottawa small business centre – these are unique opportunities that can be shared with Brampton entrepreneurs and staff will continue to focus and explore other virtual training opportunities
- Brampton Festival Singers – they have benefitted from City funding – and questioned whether funding for groups could be made a priority so that they can begin planning ahead for concerts and performances
  - staff response – advised that funding of half a million dollars was approved at the Committee of Council meeting last week for Arts and Culture and will be brought forward to Council on Wednesday, June 24<sup>th</sup> for final approval – support will be available to groups that are facing challenges during this time – by the end of this week there should be a process in place on how the funds will be distributed to groups that have applied – staff will be communicating with all the groups by the end of the week on details of the funding projects
- Brampton Folk Club – uses city space for rehearsals at the Brampton Civic Centre, they have an upcoming event next spring – what steps are being taken to allow bookings for rehearsal?
  - staff response – no new bookings are being considered at this time and no guidelines have been confirmed regarding rehearsals – caller was advised to

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- contact staff directly so that his request may be noted and added that guidelines for rehearsals will follow the rules as provided by the Province and as advised by Peel Health Services
- Peel Coral Singers – inquired whether the City has given any thought to pricing for the Rose Theatre – groups coming in that have limited funding – what can the City do to help in terms of cost for services at the theatre
    - Staff response – one action taken this year was to roll back some of the fees to 2019 fees – staff are working on an alternative seating map to help determine what the revenue potential will be – feedback is appreciated to help staff understand what the needs of groups are and how they maybe supported financially
  - Brampton Folk Club – questioned what is planned for Canada Day noting that thousands of people attend celebrations – referenced City locations at CAA Centre (formerly Powerade), Rose Theatre and capacity for attendees – suggested that actual size of venue should be considered when reopening
    - staff acknowledged the comments and advised it will be considered when the City returns to hosting large events of that nature
  - Brampton Festival Singers – group has limited technological abilities – have ideals around diversity and accessibility – members had to turn to technology to navigate resources on websites to help with rehearsals etc. – suggested that virtual rehearsals would be beneficial to those with disabilities – would the City be able to provide training with the technology to assist people who are outside of the group regular programs
    - staff response – they can support the request to provide training – noting that the training will be an opportunity for businesses and artistes to digitally transform their business – referenced digital main street program in Toronto
  - Rose Orchestra – commented that digital services in the interim were well received by her group – however it is not possible for the group to work together digitally – it is important to have space reopened and available to work live together for rehearsals and for live performances
  - Clarification provided by previous speaker from Brampton Festival Singers – caller was thinking of long term live streaming and being able to reach people at home through filming and computer technology
    - Staff response to comments regarding accessibility and people with disabilities – Rose Theatre staff are arranging to meet with various groups in Peel Region and especially in Brampton regarding accessibility – will be pleased to work with group virtually at this time
  - Brampton Chinese Association – caller commented that she has business partners in the tourism business who are interested in local Canadian travel and promoting Brampton as a destination overseas – also inquired about resumption of performances at the Rose Theatre and social media platforms that may be available to promote overseas – business partners can promote the arts and culture of Brampton
    - Staff response – staff are working on the City's first ever Tourism strategy and they would connect with her to discuss details of her promotional

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ideas for tourism in Brampton – thanked her for her efforts in promoting Brampton as a tourism destination

- Punjabi Virsa Arts & Culture Foundation Academy – advised that they are a Brampton based dance group offering free dance lessons to engage and entertain the community – questioned whether there is a specific platform/person they need to contact to offer their services
  - staff advised that they are happy to connect with the speaker and the entertainment and activities offered will be shared through the Rose Theatre social media platform
- Brampton Chinese Association – offered words of encouragement to artistes and performers

**Closing Remarks – Councillor Medeiros**

Councillor Medeiros thanked everyone participating in the call. He expressed appreciation for the comments/questions/feedback provided noting the importance of communication and collaboration between the Arts and Culture industry and staff. Continued dialogue and flexibility by parties will help to determine where service improvements are required to support the industry as the City moves to the next phase of reopening.

Mr. Marr thanked everyone and reminded them to visit [www.brampton.ca/covid19](http://www.brampton.ca/covid19) for regular updates and to submit feedback/concerns/suggestions at the email address [Covid19ReopenCity@brampton.ca](mailto:Covid19ReopenCity@brampton.ca)