



**arts ottawa
east-est**
arts council – conseil des arts

NEWS RELEASE

Wednesday, February 14, 2007 – For immediate release

Arts Ottawa East applauds Council's vote on municipal Arts Investment Strategy

Ottawa, Ontario – Arts Ottawa East (AOE) welcomes Ottawa City Council's endorsement of the Arts Investment Strategy (AIS) today, which recommends a \$2.5 million injection of funding for arts and culture over the next four years.

"We have cleared one more hurdle today," said AOE Executive Director and AIS steering committee member Christine Tremblay. "This funding will mean a great deal to the survival and success of arts and culture in Ottawa."

While AOE celebrates today's victory for arts and culture, it remains cautiously optimistic with respect to the proposed funding attached to implementing the strategy. The first test will come during the 2007 budget deliberations at the end of February. The AIS recommends an immediate increase of \$1.5 million in funding to arts and culture in 2007. The remaining distribution of the \$2.5 million would be as follows: \$400,000 in 2008, \$400,000 in 2009, and \$200,000 in 2010.

AOE commends east end councillors Michel Bellemare (Ward 11), Rainer Bloess (Ward 2), Rob Jellett (Ward 19), and Bob Monette (Ward 1) for their vision and leadership in supporting the AIS recommendations.

"With the construction of the Orleans Arts Centre scheduled to begin this spring, adoption of the Arts Investment Strategy is very timely to ensure the development of quality programming and to support the artists and organizations that will bring life to the centre," Tremblay added.

AOE is a vibrant, pro-active not-for-profit community arts council dedicated to promoting, supporting and developing the practice and appreciation of the arts at all levels in Ottawa. AOE inspires and assists arts organizations and individual artists who create and present the visual, performing, media, and literary arts in our community and who contribute to our cultural landscape. An umbrella organization representing more than 70 arts organizations and well over 16,500 individuals, AOE responds to the needs of its membership and the vast community it serves, providing them with information, resources and services.

For more information, please visit www.artsoe.ca.

– 30 –

Source: Micheline Joannis, Development/Communications Coordinator, Arts Ottawa East, 613-749-4978, micheline@artsoe.ca.