



Briefing Note

Ministry of Canadian Heritage

August 2019 – Ottawa, Ontario

Replacing Pearson Centre Arts and Culture Space

Feb 2019 Roof Collapse on the Lester B Pearson Civic Centre:

- Destroyed 360-seat auditorium and related sound/lighting equipment
- Heavily damaged Nuclear and Mining Museum space and artifacts
- Art gallery and several art studio spaces rendered unusable displacing more than a dozen artists' collectives and associations representing hundreds of artists and volunteers
- Civic Centre was the arts and culture hub of the community and housed several non profit groups such as the Chamber of Commerce, Community Living Algoma

Current Status:

- Building and contents insured for approx. \$9M
- Half the building remains largely unscathed (but has been without utilities and closed for months)
- The city assisted several artists and user groups in finding suitable alternate locations. But many remain without suitable spaces to conduct their art in the community.
- City's insurer to provide detailed report and cost estimates to repair existing building or offer a financial amount for a new build. That report is due in the coming days/week.

Concept:

- Take cash settlement from the insurer and leverage Cultural Spaces Canada funding for a new build that would replace the lost community arts and cultural assets and house all displaced artists and stakeholder groups.
- The city can facilitate demolition and/or site prep while applying for funding to assist with the insurance recovery.

Cost Estimate: \$ 8-10M

- 360 seat theatre: 7,800 sq. ft. @ \$400 = \$ 3.12 M
- museum / archive: 7,500 sq. ft. @ \$300 = \$ 2.25 M
- art gallery / studio: 7,500 sq. ft. @ \$300 = \$ 2.25 M
\$7.62 M + design/contingencies