

From: Van Der Marel, John
Sent: Thursday, August 31, 2017 12:29 PM
To: CityClerks <cityclerks@barrie.ca>
Cc:
Subject: Tax reduction Program for Not For Profit Organizations

Att: Wendy Cooke

Further to our conversation today regarding the tax reduction program available to not for profit organizations we the Barrie Film Festival would like to present at the September 27, 2017 meeting to request to have our tax rebate back dated to 2015.

Just this week it became apparent to me as the new Treasurer that this was an annual submission and was not done for 2015 or 2016. I have found the original submission completed for the 2014 tax year. Needless to say like many not for profit organizations and despite our full screening program we operate primarily using volunteers and also have had turn over at the board level.

When we negotiated our lease with Mark Porter owner of the Uptown Theatre the tax portion connected to this building was part of the lease agreement and lease payment, yet we would benefit from the tax rebate/reduction.

Given we run film screenings year round and almost weekly the need to have a permanent home for the Barrie Film Festival to operate from was critical if we were to survive. Given Cineplex controls all other theatres in Barrie and have severe blackout periods the Up Town Theater was our only option and still is if we wanted to continue operation and maintain the programs we provide to our patrons.

I have filed for 2017 and will ensure all future filings will be processed annually.

As for the September 27/17 meeting I personally cannot attend however Angela Baldwin, Chair, for the Barrie Film Festival will be present.

We thank you for your consideration.

Regards,

John Van Der Marel
Barrie Film Festival

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