



Cultural Governance in Toronto



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Outline

Culture Plan for the Creative City (2003)

- global cultural capital (i.e. regeneration)
- creative city (i.e. economic dynamism)
- why Toronto?



Governance

- urban regimes & structural context
- 'cultural politics' as governance

Culture's response to state change

- tactics of cultural policy
- new constellation of governance





Culture Plan for the **Creative City**

The Culture Plan “called for Toronto to use its arts, culture and heritage assets to position itself as a Creative City, a global cultural capital.”

Culture Plan for the Creative City (2003)



TORONTO
NEW BUILDINGS

***Culture City: New Toronto Buildings* (2006) – “an extraordinary act of city-building is happening on the powerful shoulders of culture”
12 mentioned by LWC :: 11 in AGO exhibit :: 6 along ‘Avenue of the Arts’**





Creativity Debate



Rise of the CC
Florida 2002



Struggling with CC
Peck 2005



“A creative culture is the cornerstone of a great city.”

Live With Culture





What made Toronto ready to take up creative city policies?





‘Metropolitan Toronto’ was something of an oxymoron

1957 – \$75,000 in grants to 10 arts organizations



Shifting significance of culture...



2003 – \$12 Million in grants
to 400 cultural organizations

How and why do some concerns gain attention?
(Stone 1993)

A solution to 'do something' in the urban sphere.
(Molotch 1993)



Need to reconsider local agency.
Explore governance of Toronto's cultural sector.

Cultural plans – a Toronto legacy

3 waves of cultural politics

1974 :: Metropolitan Toronto's Support for the Arts

- artistic culture & personal influence

1994 :: Metro's Culture Plan

- cultural heritage & bureaucratic consultation

2003 :: Culture Plan for the Creative City

- cultural economy & public / private alliances

1974 :: Silcox Report



- Independently conducted & personally driven
- Establishes 'Municipal Cultural Affairs'
- Makes the case for local grants to professional arts
- \$1 per capita
- Separates out 'the majors'
- Emphasizes artistic culture

1994 :: Metro's Culture Plan



- Internally developed by culture portfolio (8 staff, \$8M grants)
- Extensive public consultation
- Wider scope of 'culture': arts, heritage, libraries, etc.
- Plan 'unanimously' adopted by council & then shelved
- Amalgamation: decreed by province & introduces logic of fiscal efficiency

2003 :: Culture Plan for the Creative City



- Internally developed by 'Culture Division' (160 staff, \$12M grants)
- Need for team building: climate of chaos & fear underpin strategic planning process
- Consultation with arts community
- Embraces 'creative city' paradigm
- Emphasizes cultural economy

“Mike Harris was elected as premier of Ontario. Suddenly the Ontario Arts Council was being cut by 40%, and there were all sorts of studies underway about **how municipalities could be more efficient and effective** ... And the next thing you know, we were all thrust into a lot of discussions, a lot of meetings, a lot of angst you might say, looking at what might happen if all the municipalities within Metro Toronto were amalgamated into one entity. So that really put the plan on the shelf, in a number of ways. And in some ways, certainly at the time events just overtook what was in [the plan] and we all had to look at what was going to happen in this new world, and **how could arts and culture be stabilized.**”

Kathleen Sharpe, re. Metro Toronto

“the one thing that [cultural elites] knew we wanted to have happen was to preserve the significant work that had been done and the structures and the platform that had been built that was allowing the arts to be funded and to have a voice.”

Rita Davies, City of Toronto

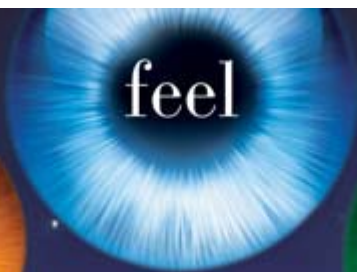
“local economic and political agents may well make their own history, but they do not do so in circumstances of their own choosing”

(Jessop, Peck & Tickell 1999)





see



feel



hear



go

toronto festival of arts+creativity 2008

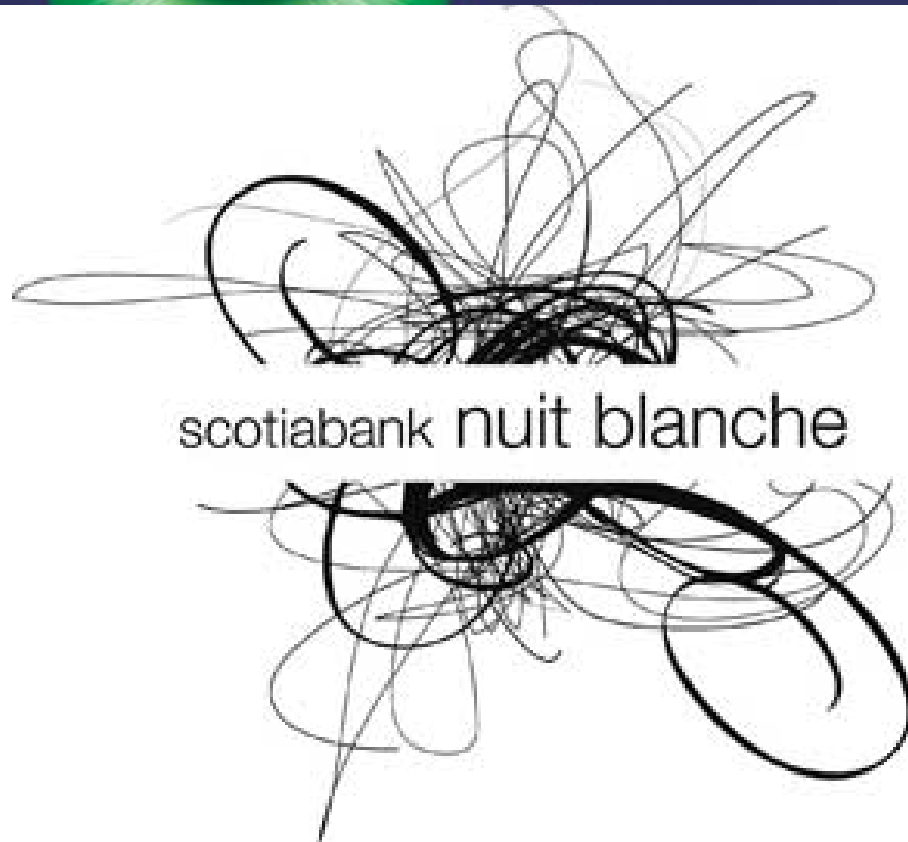
Luminato

AND L'ORÉAL PARTNERS IN CREATIVITY

JUNE 6-15



ARTSCAPE



scotiabank nuit blanche

Connecting creative people, places, and ideas



conclusions



Thank You.

Deborah Leslie (UofT, geography)
David Wolfe (UofT, political science)



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The purpose of the arts in a city
is to make a city fall in love with itself.

Pier DiCicco
Toronto's Poet Laureate

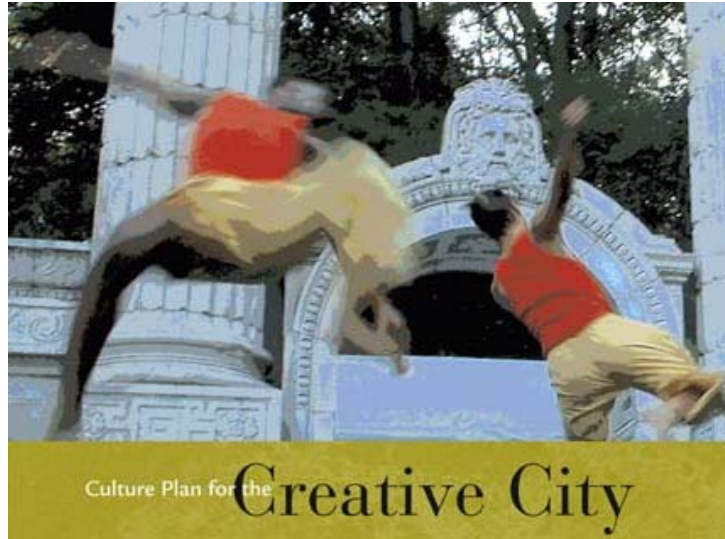


Culture led urban regeneration
begins with poetry and ends in Real Estate.

cf. Evans 2005,959

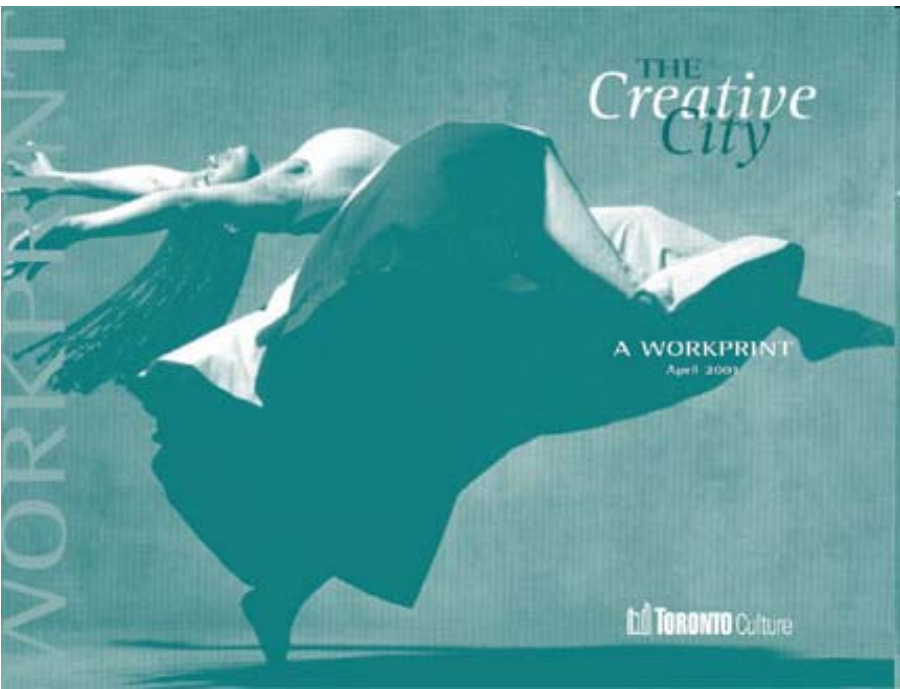


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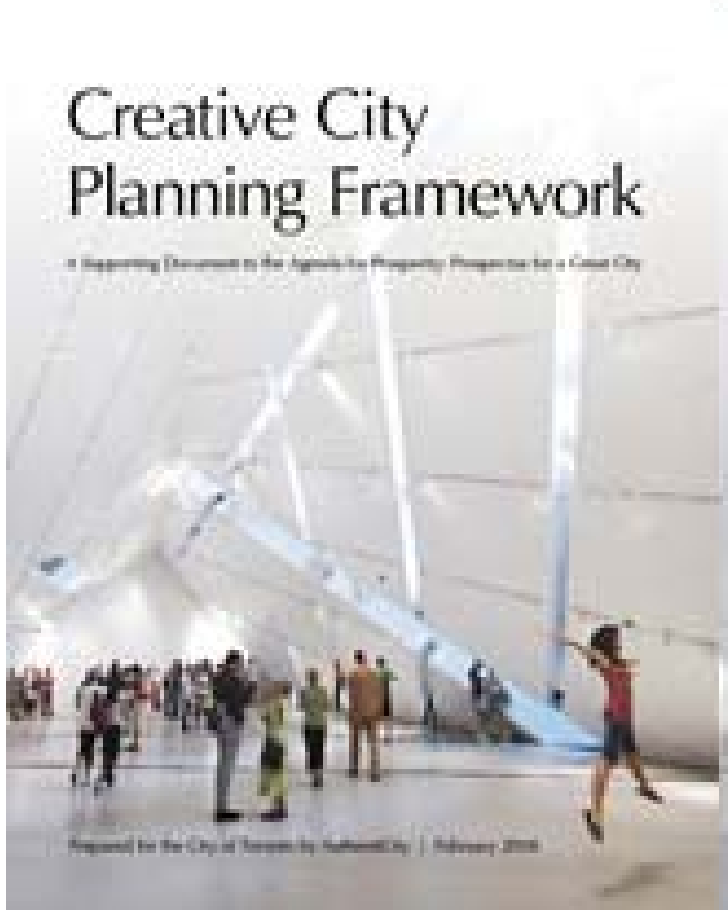
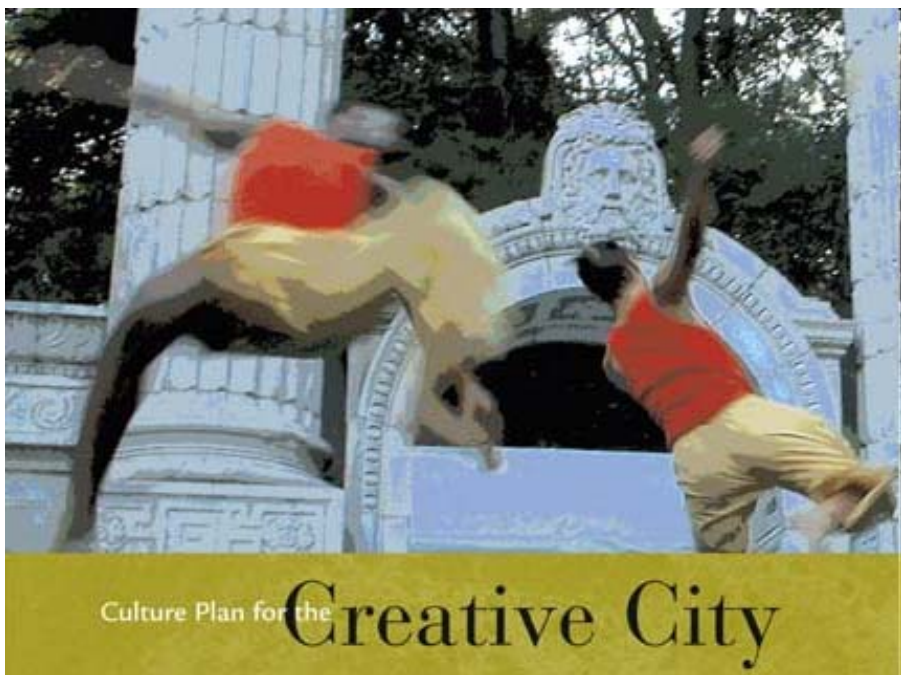


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2001



2008

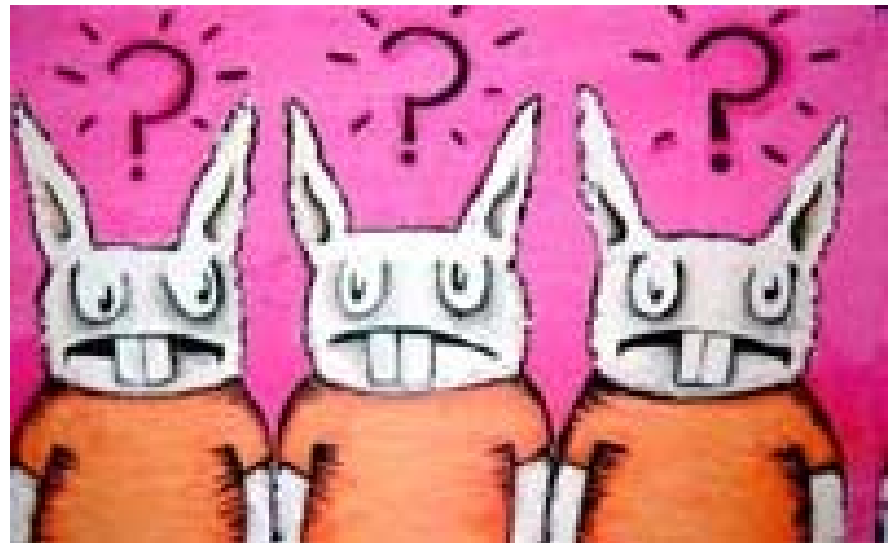
2003

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urban regime analysis + state theory

Recognize that economic & political are
constitutive



What counts as culture? Who decides?
Why did the popularity of 'creativity' come about?

1985 :: Cultural Capital

- Informed by significant empirical research
- Under 'cultural affairs'
- Brought statistics & data to bear on quantifying the work, needs & contributions of art & culture.

