TO:  SMorrison-QP@ndp.on.ca

councillor\_robinson@toronto.ca

councillor\_matlow@toronto.ca

 councillor\_layton@toronto.ca

councillor\_wongtam@toronto.ca

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CC: Jowenne Herrera, President, John B. Aird Gallery, president@airdgallery.org

**RE: Interim Space Needed for Aird Gallery**

I am writing to express my concern that the Aird Gallery does not have an interim space during the upcoming reconstruction of the [MacDonald Block Complex](http://www.infrastructureontario.ca/Macdonald-Block-Reconstruction-Project/). The Aird is one of the few remaining public art galleries in Toronto and I respectfully request that you support the Aird in finding an interim home.

For over 30 years, the Aird has provided free public access to exhibitions and programming. Presenting over 12 exhibitions and featuring over 500 artists/year, the Aird provides valuable and much needed space for established and young, emerging artists contributing to a creative economy, engaged citizenry and social dialogue on which our economic well being and high quality of life depend. The Aird enriches all of our lives. They leave no one behind.

The Aird connects communities with each other – from Academia, Youth, Seniors, Indigenous, New Canadians and LGBTIQA. It is also an important community partner, developing curatorial and educational programming with a wide range of groups including the Toronto District School Board on Indigenous education and well-being, CONTACT photography festival, City of Toronto's Arts Connection Program, and Academia. Losing the Aird will be a loss to all of these communities.

It is essential that the Aird have an interim space during the approximately 8 years it will take to renovate the MacDonald Block. Please help the Aird find an interim home.

Thank you.

*Add your name and sign here*

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