
General Committee - Corporate Grants

Date: February 10, 2021
Time: 1:30 PM
Location: Online Video Conference

Members	Mayor Bonnie Crombie	
	Councillor Stephen Dasko	Ward 1
	Councillor Karen Ras	Ward 2
	Councillor Chris Fonseca	Ward 3
	Councillor John Kovac	Ward 4
	Councillor Carolyn Parrish	Ward 5
	Councillor Ron Starr	Ward 6
	Councillor Dipika Damerla	Ward 7
	Councillor Matt Mahoney	Ward 8
	Councillor Pat Saito	Ward 9 (Chair)
	Councillor Sue McFadden	Ward 10
	Councillor George Carlson	Ward 11

Staff Present

Paul Mitcham, City Manager and Chief Administrative Officer
Shari Lichterman, Commissioner of Community Services
Diana Rusnov, Director of Legislative Services and City Clerk
Sacha Smith, Manager of Legislative Services and Deputy Clerk
Dayna Obaseki, Legislative Coordinator, Legislative Services Division

1. CALL TO ORDER

Councillor Saito, Chair called the meeting to order at 1:30PM

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Approved (Councillor R. Starr)

3. DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST - Nil.**4. PRESENTATIONS - Nil.****5. DEPUTATIONS****5.1 Vikas Kohli, Executive Artistic Director and Emily Harris, Fundraising and HR Support, MonstrARTity regarding the 2020 #StayHome with #BollywoodMonsterMashup Festival at Celebration Square**

Mr. Kohli and Ms. Harris spoke to the 2020 #StayHome with #BollywoodMonsterMashup Festival at Celebration Square highlighting the transitional success to virtual events.

Members of the Committee spoke to the matter and raised the following questions and concerns;

- Noted the COVID-19 impact;
- The number of virtual views and how those numbers are monitored;
- Sustainability of virtual events;
- Live/In Person shows preference; and
- Inquired whether virtual shows cost less.

Mr. Kohli and Ms. Harris responded to questions from the Committee.

Councillor Kovac requested virtual view statistics for previous virtual City of Mississauga events.

RECOMMENDATION GC-0081-2021

Moved By Councillor J. Kovac

That the deputation by Vikas Kohli, Executive Artistic Director and Emily Harris, Fundraising and HR Support, MonstrARTity regarding the 2020 #StayHome with #BollywoodMonsterMashup Festival at Celebration Square be received.

Received

5.2 Anna Gulbinski, Executive Director and Dev Ramsumair, Curator, AGM (Art Gallery of Mississauga) regarding a Funding Decision Appeal

Ms. Gulbinski and Leslie Silvestri, President, Board of Directors, AGM (Art Gallery of Mississauga) presented and provided an overview regarding a request to appeal a funding decision. The AGM requested that Council reconsider the recommendation being proposed by Culture Division staff to decrease the Art Gallery's funding to \$160,000. The AGM requested to maintain the funding of \$325,000, which the gallery has been operating with for the last nine years, with conditions and hold backs if deemed appropriate.

Members of the Committee spoke to the matter and raised the following questions and concerns;

- Inquired whether the grant reduction will effect the AGM's programming and commitments;
- Inquired about virtual attendance;
- Noted the AGM's free space at City Hall
- Fundraising events and government grants; and
- Inquired how the AGM is addressing the racism and lack of transparency concerns.

Ms. Gulbinski responded to questions from the Committee.

RECOMMENDATION GC-0082-2021

Moved By Councillor S. McFadden

That the deputation and associated presentation by Anna Gulbinski, Executive Director and Leslie Silvestri, President, Board of Directors, AGM (Art Gallery of Mississauga) regarding a Funding Decision Appeal be received.

Received

5.3 Item 7.1 - Andrew Douglas, Grant Coordinator and Sonja Banic, Manager of Culture Services

Mr. Douglas and Ms. Banic presented and provided an overview on the 2021 Culture and Grant Community Programs. The grant programs consist of Arts & Culture, Cultural Festivals & Celebrations, Culture Projects, Community and the new Stability Fund. They noted the application process, the Peer Assessor / Grants Review Committees, the Small Project Matching Grant, the COVID-19 Impact, and the multi-year agreements as well as the Culture and Community Grant Criterion.

Councillor Parrish spoke to the matter and inquired if the March grant installment could be postponed until after a review is conducted in April. She further requested that the applicable organizational groups provide a virtual back-up plan for their upcoming events. Shari Lichterman, Commissioner of Community Services responded that the

timing of releasing the funds related to events could be explored and be brought back to Council the following week.

RECOMMENDATION GC-0083-2021

Moved By Councillor K. Ras

That the deputation and associated presentation by Andrew Douglas, Grant Coordinator and Sonja Banic, Manager of Culture Services regarding the 2021 Culture and Community Grants be received.

Received

6. PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD - 15 Minute Limit

Anu Rahda Verma, Arts Community Member and on behalf of the Hold AGM Accountable Movement inquired if Council will publicly acknowledge the harm of racism and discrimination that individuals and communities have experienced at the hands of the AGM. Ms. Verma further inquired if alternative locations for the gallery are being considered.

Mayor Crombie took over as Chair at 2:49PM as Councillor Saito departed the meeting due to technical issues.

Shari Lichterman, Commissioner of Community Services responded by noting that in order to be eligible for the grant, the organizations must complete certain tasks which including an independent review on diversity and inclusion. Peer Assessor / Grants Review Committees and staff are ensuring the organization address these issues in a transparent way.

Mayor Crombie noted that the City of Mississauga takes these allegations seriously and are working towards a solution.

Councillor Saito rejoined the meeting at 2:51PM and took over as Chair.

Councillor Kovac reaffirmed that Council and Peer Assessor / Grants Review Committees have been made aware of incidents and challenges that have taken place. The Peer Assessor / Grants Review Committee have provided feedback to the AGM.

7. MATTERS CONSIDERED

7.1 2021 Culture and Community Grant Programs

Councillor Starr noted that there is a new Board of Directors at the Art Gallery of Mississauga (AGM) and that they do not represent the discriminatory allegations. Councillor Starr requested an amendment to the recommendation to reinstate the previous funding of \$325,000 to the AGM and put 50% of the funding into a reserve fund to be released after staff and the AGM accomplish the goals they have outlined.

Councillor Kovac inquired if any of the goals outlined by the AGM have made any progress and/or been accomplished. Paul Damaso, Director of Culture responded by noting the information presented by the AGM was provided only today and not included in their grant application. Councillor Kovac further inquired if there is a system in place and precedent for funding release from a reserve. Shari Lichterman, Commissioner of Community Services responded noting there is no previous precedent or procedure currently in place.

Councillor Saito inquired if the AGM could apply to the Tourism Board for funding. Ms. Lichterman responded by noting yes as long as the AGM meets the criteria.

Councillor Parrish expressed concern regarding creating a precedent.

Councillor Starr's amended motion was voted on and defeated.

RECOMMENDATION GC-0084-2021

Moved By Councillor S. McFadden

1. That the Corporate Report dated January 12, 2021 from the Commissioner of Community Services entitled "2021 Culture and Community Grant Programs" be approved.
2. That \$125,000 from the Culture grant residual balance of \$457,337 be used for a one-time stabilization fund in 2021 of \$100,000 to support groups that were not able to access City funding and whose operations have been impacted during the pandemic; and to fund the 2021 Small Project Matching Grant Program in the amount of \$25,000.

YES (11): Mayor Crombie, Councillor S. Dasko, Councillor K. Ras, Councillor C. Fonseca, Councillor J. Kovac , Councillor C. Parrish, Councillor R. Starr, Councillor M. Mahoney, Councillor P. Saito, Councillor S. McFadden, and Councillor G. Carlson

ABSENT (1): Councillor D. Damerla

Carried (11 to 0)

8. ADJOURNMENT

3:10PM (Councillor R. Starr)