

City of Mississauga Corporate Report



Date: January 18, 2022 To: Chair and Members of General Committee - Corporate Grants	Originator's files:
From: Jodi Robillos, Commissioner of Community Services	Meeting date: February 9, 2022

Subject

2022 Culture and Community Grant Programs

Recommendation

1. That the Corporate Report entitled "2022 Culture and Community Grant Programs" dated January 18, 2022, from the Commissioner of Community Services be approved.
2. That the 2022 Cultural Festivals and Celebrations grant payments be withheld until staff have confirmed each event will take place in 2022 and details are provided outlining if the event will be virtual, modified or in-person based on COVID regulations and further that should applicants need to cancel their events, funding will not be provided however, funding will be provided to sustain an organization's fixed costs for 2022.

Executive Summary

- 63 eligible grant applications are recommended for funding.
- Four Culture organizations are being recommended for multi-year grants and four more will be entering their next year of multi-year grants.
- Seven Community organizations will be entering into one-year extensions on multi-year grant funding with one organization entering into a new one-year agreement.
- A total budget allocation of \$3,240,051 is being recommended by the Peer Assessment Committee for the Culture Grant Programs.
- A total budget allocation of \$1,222,015 is being recommended by the Grants Review Committee for the Community Grant Program.
- The assessment panel recommends five groups for the Culture Grants Program and one for the Community Grants Program be placed on support with conditions status.

Background

The City of Mississauga provides culture and community grant funding through five streams.

1. Arts & Culture
2. Cultural Festivals & Celebrations
3. Culture Projects
4. Community Grants
5. Small Matching Project Grants

In 2021, a one-time \$100,000 Stabilization Grant fund was made available from the Culture Grant residual balance to assist with rental, insurance, utilities and communications with members or audience costs during the pandemic. The funds were used to support both culture groups and recreation sport organizations. The Small Project Matching Grant Program provided \$29,737 in funding to community groups in good standing with the City of Mississauga's Community Group Registry Program. For program outcomes and project details (see Appendix 1).

Culture Grants Program

Arts & Culture

The Arts and Culture grant program supports emerging and established not-for-profit professional and community-based arts, culture, and heritage organizations in Mississauga. The goals of the grant program are:

- To help eligible organizations develop exemplary programs and services for art, culture and heritage; and
- To advance knowledge, understanding and the appreciation of arts, culture, and heritage for the citizens of Mississauga.

Cultural Festivals & Celebrations

The Cultural Festivals and Celebrations (CFC) grant program provides funding to offset expenses associated with providing a clean and safe venue for the presentation of arts, heritage and cultural festivals and celebrations to residents and visitors. CFC supports a range of events that reflect the City's many cultural traditions.

In 2021, Council approved a resolution that grant payments be withheld until staff confirmed each event was taking place and details were provided outlining whether events were virtual, modified or in-person based on COVID regulations. Twelve Festivals received full funding and four received partial funding based on their event details.

Culture Projects

The Culture Projects grant theme for 2022 is Unifying Arts for Social Justice. Project grant applications that focus on anti-racism, anti-hate efforts and community building in Mississauga were considered. The program provides project-based grants to cultural organizations and collectives that:

- Engage the arts community
- Create works to increase awareness, promote education and take action to affect positive change
- Encourage more cultural practitioners to create a wider variety of cultural experiences for the City of Mississauga

Community Grants Program

Community Grants

The Community Grant program assists Mississauga-based, not-for-profit community groups by providing multi-year, annual operating and project grants to improve the quality of life for residents. The program aligns with Strategic Priorities of the Recreation Division, and Parks, Forestry and Environment Division.

Small Matching Project Grant

The Small Matching Project Grant program provides funds to recognized Community Groups to strengthen neighbourhoods by increasing resident engagement and enhancing opportunities for residents to participate in events and activities. This grant has continuous intake from early March to the end of September until funds are depleted.

Grant Application Process

The City's grant process is consistent with other municipalities and granting bodies throughout North America, including the provincial and federal government. The process can be broken down into three steps:

1. Application Intake

The 2022 application period opened on August 23, 2021 and closed on October 15, 2021. As in previous years, information about the grant program was distributed through the City's promotional channels to ensure broad community awareness including: the City web site, emails, Mississauga Arts Council channels, e-newsletters, news release and social media channels.

Five grant information sessions were held virtually from August 25, 2021 to September 7, 2021. These sessions provide an opportunity for staff to share the application process and answer questions about the grant program. Sessions are open to the public; all first-time applicants are required to attend one of the information sessions to be eligible for funding. Staff also encourage grant applicants to book a one-on-one pre-application consultation.

2. Staff Review

Staff review the applications for completeness and clarity. If questions or the need for clarification arises, applicants are contacted. This step is designed to ensure all applications are complete, meet eligibility criteria and can be fairly assessed.

Each applicant's financial information is forwarded for review and comment by the City's Finance Division. Finance provides comments on the following financial questions:

- Does the organization have adequate financial liquidity;
- Is the organization carrying a sufficient surplus;
- Is the organization carrying an unacceptable deficit;
- Are the organization's finances consistent year over year;
- Does the organization have a sustainable funding base (including funding from multiple sources); and
- Are there significant variances between the organizations budgeted finances and actuals.

Finance staff review each grant application and grade them as having a high, medium or low financial risk; this review is shared with the assessment committees along with the grant applications.

3. Peer Assessment and Grant Review Committee Recommendations

Assessors review the grant applications independently and then attend a series of group meetings to review the applications and recommend grant allocations. A panel of four peer assessors (Culture Grant Programs) and three grant reviewers (Community Grant Program) were approved by Council on November 6, 2019 for a four-year term (see Appendix 2).

The committee reviews and scores each eligible application against the published criteria for the grant programs (see Appendix 3). Each organization is assigned a grade from 1-5 based on the numerical score. Decisions are based on the merit of the applications with detailed criteria for how funding is to be allocated.

This year, four Culture organizations are being recommended for multi-year grants and four more will be entering their next year of multi-year grants. Seven Recreation multi-year Community organizations will be entering into one-year extensions with one organization entering into a new one-year agreement.

Comments

The City of Mississauga's grant program decisions are based on the merit of the applications with detailed criteria for how funding is to be allocated. This funding cycle saw a total of 80 new grant applications received by the October 15, 2021 deadline:

- 63 are recommended for funding
- 15 were not recommended for funding
- 2 were deemed ineligible

As per Council's request, summaries of each application have been provided which include: the organization's purpose, programming plans and the impact of funding on the City which provides rationale for the funding recommendation (see Appendix 4).

2022 Culture Grants Recommended Funding

The Peer Assessment Committee is recommending \$3,240,051 in funding be awarded from the Culture Division's grant budget of \$3,261,300; leaving a balance of \$21,249 in unallocated funding.

For 2022 Culture Projects grant program's theme is Unifying Arts for Social Justice. Project grant applications focus on anti-racism, anti-hate efforts and community building in Mississauga were considered. Twelve project grant applications were submitted and nine projects grant applications that were directly related to the theme have been recommended for funding (see Appendix 5).

The grants policy anticipates that not all funding may be allocated in a given year. The policy calls for any balance of funds from the Culture Grant programs to be transferred to the Arts Reserve for use in future years.

2022 Community Grants Recommended Funding

In 2019, Council approved multi-year agreements for eight community groups (2019-2021) including:

1. Active Adult Centre of Mississauga
2. Erin Mills Youth Centre
3. Mississauga Sports Council
4. Safe City Mississauga
5. The Riverwood Conservancy
6. Volunteer MBC
7. Ecosource
8. Rapport Youth and Family Services (formerly Nexus Youth Services)

This year due to continued uncertainty resulting from the pandemic, staff recommends extending seven of these agreements for one year to allow the groups the time needed to effectively plan and to re-apply for multi-year grant funding as needed. Given the closure of Central Library for renovation, the multi-year agreement with Rapport Youth and Family Services ended as scheduled in December 2021.

The Dam-Develop Assist Mentor organization meets eligibility criteria for multi-year funding however, the Grants Review Committee recommends a one-year agreement as a transitional measure in 2022 (see Appendix 6).

The Grants Review Committee is recommending \$1,222,015 in funding be awarded from the Community Grant budget of \$1,207,670; leaving an overage of \$14,345 (due to a new City lease agreement for Active Adult Centre of Mississauga). This overage will be funded, one-time, through a portion of the 2022 unallocated Culture grant budget.

The Small Project Matching Grant Program is made available with surplus funding from the Community Grant program. A maximum of \$2,500 can be requested by a community group to support a new initiative outside their normal range of activity. With this year's budget reaching full capacity, this grant will not be available in 2022 and is under review as part of the 2022 Grant Review.

Grant Review 2022

Staff plans to review all grant programs beginning in 2022. This review will allow: better understanding of the current needs of applicants through an equity, diversity and inclusion lens; determine whether the current Community grant funding allocation is still viable, and recommend strategic and sustainable ways to provide future grant funding. The grant program was last reviewed in 2016.

Support with Conditions Status

The City has adopted "support with conditions status" as a means to signal to Council where particular organizations may benefit from additional advice and coaching from City staff. An organization placed on "support with conditions" status must participate in a minimum of two mandatory meetings with staff and demonstrate progress, in specifically identified areas, as a condition of their funding approval. For 2022, the assessment committees recommend the following six organizations be placed on "support with conditions status."

Culture Grants

Art Gallery of Mississauga (AGM)

The Peer Assessment Committee recommended this organization for an Arts & Culture grant of \$275,000 and to continue with *Support with Conditions* (for more details, see AGM evaluation summary sheet in Appendix 4 Pg.1). The AGM will work with the Culture Division over the next year on:

- Implementation of the recommendations from the equity and inclusion audit conducted by Regional Diversity Roundtable.
- Development of a Communications and Marketing Plan to ensure transparency and promote community engagement.

Youth Troopers for Global Awareness

The Peer Assessment Committee recognized the overall improvements and progress of this organization and recommended an Arts & Culture grant of \$35,000. The Committee felt it would be beneficial for the organization to continue on Support with Conditions to further demonstrate stability and financial management.

Portuguese Cultural Centre of Mississauga- Guinness Book of World Records Attempt

The Peer Assessment Committee recommended this organization for the Arts & Culture grant of \$7,500 and to be placed on Support with Conditions status to support their goal. The assessors appreciated the group introducing a high profile event through a cultural dance event.

Dragon Lion Dance Festival

The Peer Assessment Committee recommended this organization for a Cultural Festivals & Celebrations grant of \$7,500 and to be placed on support with conditions status to strengthen the grant application as well as to encourage registration in the Community Group Registry Program.

Afri-Car Food Festival

The Peer Assessment Committee recommended this organization for a Cultural Festivals & Celebrations grant of \$2,500 and to be placed on support with conditions status to assist with the application process and to build the organizations' capacity to support their goals. The assessors appreciated the group introducing a new festival to Mississauga.

Community Grants**Global 180: Student Communications Inc.**

The Community Grant Review Committee recommended this organization for a Community Grant of \$9,985 and to be placed on support with conditions status to develop metrics for their strategic plan and to improve financial reporting. The assessors recognize the organization's commitment to Mississauga's youth.

Financial Impact

There is no financial impact based on the recommendations in this report. A total budget of \$3,240,051 is recommended by the Peer Assessment Committee for the Culture Grant Programs. A total budget of \$1,222,015 is recommended by the Grants Review Committee for the Community Grant Program. Per the Community Grants Administration policy (08-01-03) the remaining balance of Culture grant residual funds will be transferred to the Arts Reserve to address grant funding needs in future years (RF#30195).

Conclusion

In 2022, 63 groups are being recommended for grant funding. Along with the 12 organizations that have already been approved for multi-year funding, 75 organizations are set to receive funding in 2022. According to the assessment committees, these groups effectively demonstrated their community impact and their programs and services align to the City's priorities.

Attachments

- Appendix 1: Background - 2021
- Appendix 2: 2022 Grant Committee
- Appendix 3: Grant Eligibility Criteria
- Appendix 4: Grant Evaluation Summary Sheets
- Appendix 5: 2022 Recommended Culture Grants
- Appendix 6: 2022 Recommended Community Grants



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