

City of Mississauga
Corporate Report



<p>Date: January 13, 2023</p> <p>To: Chair and Members of General Committee - Corporate Grants</p>	<p>Originator's files:</p>
<p>From: Jodi Robillos, Commissioner of Community Services</p>	<p>Meeting date: February 8, 2023</p>

Subject

2023 Culture and Community Grant Programs

Recommendation

1. That the Corporate Report entitled "2023 Culture and Community Grant Programs" dated January 13, 2023, from the Commissioner of Community Services be approved.
2. That the (2024-2027) Volunteer Peer Assessment Committee for Culture and Community Grants recommended by staff be approved.
3. That Council provides authority to Culture Staff to administer, review and approve a spring intake of the Live Music Grants Pilot Program.

Executive Summary

- 88 organizations will receive grant funding in 2023.
- 80 eligible grant applications from 2023 are recommended for funding, including ten new groups and six Community organizations recommended for new multi-year grants.
- In addition to the new grant recommendations for 2023, eight Culture organizations will be entering the next year of their multi-year grants.
- A total budget allocation of \$3,327,415 is being recommended by the Peer Assessment Committee for the Culture Grant Programs.
- A total budget allocation of \$1,140,175 is being recommended by the Grants Review Committee for the Community Grant Program.
- The Peer Assessment Committee recommends six groups for the Culture Grant Programs and two for the Community Grants Program be placed on support with conditions status.

Background

In 2023, the City of Mississauga will provide culture and community grant funding through six streams.

1. Live Music Grant Pilot Program
2. Arts & Culture
3. Cultural Festivals & Celebrations
4. Culture Projects
5. Community Grants
6. Small Matching Project Grants

Live Music Grant Pilot Program

For 2023, the Culture Division launched the Live Music Grant Pilot Program, approved by Council as part of the City's first Music Strategy to support the local music sector. The Live Music Grant Pilot Program is a two-year pilot intended to increase the number and frequency of live music events in Mississauga. The grant will provide \$45,000 per year for a maximum of \$90,000 in total funding over the two years. This grant stream is the first City Culture Grant open to for-profit businesses with the potential to increase tourism and cultural growth. New Concert Presenters (presenters operating for fewer than four years) may apply for \$1,000 towards eligible concert expenses. Established Concert Presenters (presenters operating for four years or more) may apply for up to 50% of the concert's total operating budget or \$2,500, whichever is less. Following the pilot, staff will assess the impact and return on investment of this funding to make recommendations on a permanent live music grant stream.

Arts & Culture

The Arts & 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 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.

Culture Projects

The 2023 Culture Projects Grant Program continues its theme from 2022 (*Unifying Arts for Social Justice*) with a focus on anti-racism, anti-hate efforts, and community building in Mississauga. This includes projects that emphasize Indigenous worldviews, creative and artistic methods, and presentation practices. The goal of this theme is to:

- Provide funding that engages the arts community;
- Create works to increase awareness, promote education and take action to affect positive change.

Community Grants

The Community Grant Program provides annual grants up to \$10,000 and multi-year grants to Mississauga-based, not-for-profit community groups in good standing with the City of Mississauga Community Group Registry Program (Policy 08-01-01). These groups deliver programs and services that keep Mississauga residents active, healthy and engaged in their communities and align with the strategic priorities of the Recreation Division and Parks, Forestry and Environment Division.

Small Matching Project Grant

The Small Project Matching Grants Program (SPMG) provides funds up to \$2,500 to Registered Groups in good standing with the City of Mississauga's Community Group Registry Program (Policy 08-01-01). Eligible projects will strengthen neighbourhoods, increase resident engagement, and enhance opportunities for Mississauga residents to participate in events and activities at the neighbourhood level. Grant recipients must match the City investment with equivalent in-kind, donations or other financial contributions. The SPMG is intended to support smaller projects and serves as an introduction to City grants programs for new and developing organizations. As outlined in the Community Grants Administration Policy (08-01-03), matching grants are approved by the applicable Division Director, in this case, the Director of Recreation.

Grant Administration Process

The City's grant process is guided by the Community Grant Administration Policy (08-01-03) and is consistent with other municipalities and granting bodies throughout North America, including the provincial and federal governments. The process can be broken down into three steps:

1. Application Intake

The 2023 application period opened on August 22, 2022, and closed on October 14, 2022. 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's website, emails, e-newsletters, news releases and social media channels.

Nine grant information sessions were held virtually from August 31, 2022, to September 28, 2022, with a total of 53 participants attending. 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 organization's 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 Peer Assessment Committees along with the grant applications.

3. Peer Assessment 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 1).

The committees review and score each eligible application against the published criteria for the grant programs (see Appendix 2). Each organization is assigned a grade from 1-5 based on the numerical score. Recommendations are based on the merit of the applications with detailed criteria for how funding is to be allocated.

2024-2027 Peer Assessment Committees

An open call for two new Peer Assessment Committees was widely promoted from Oct. 21– Dec. 16, 2022, with the goal of reaching highly qualified applicants who reflect the diversity of Mississauga. Staff reviewed applicants for eligibility and held interviews in early January 2023. To be eligible for the Committee, applicants must be at least 18 years old and either a practising

arts and culture professional with at least two years of industry experience or a community member with a background in community support, parks and forestry, or recreation.

The call resulted in 19 high quality, eligible applications across the Culture and Community categories. Staff recommends the following applicants for two committees; one to review Culture Grant Programs and one to review Community Grant Programs (See Appendix 1, pg. 2 for more details):

- **Culture:** Jeannette Chau, Wendy Rading, Ulysses Santos De Paula, Anna Yin, Zarmina Rafi.
- **Community:** Renay Kumar, Karen LeMoine, Tafadzwa Maggie Nyawuyanga, Marion Price.

Comments

The City of Mississauga's grant program recommendations 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 98 grant applications received by the October 14, 2022 deadline.

- 80 are recommended for funding
- 11 were not recommended for funding
- 3 were deemed ineligible at staff review stage
- 4 were deemed ineligible and not recommended for funding at the peer review stage

In total, 95 applications were eligible for peer review. Summaries for each of the 95 applications that went to peer review are provided, which include the organization's purpose, programming plans, community impact of funding, and rationale for the funding recommendation (please see Appendix 6). Applicants deemed ineligible and not recommended for funding are contacted by staff, provided with feedback on their application and encouraged to apply in the following year.

2023 Culture Grants Recommended Funding

The Peer Assessment Committee is recommending \$3,327,415 in funding be awarded from the Culture Division's grant budget of \$3,475,800, leaving a balance of \$148,385 in unallocated funding. Eight Culture organizations will be entering the next year of their multi-year grants (please see appendix 3 for details.) 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.

2023 Live Music Recommended Funding

The Peer Assessment Committee is recommending \$21,475 in funding be awarded from the Live Music Grant Pilot Program's budget of \$45,000, leaving a balance of \$23,525. Based on feedback and interest in this stream from the music sector, staff are recommending re-opening

this stream in early spring; this will allow the allocation of remaining funds to bolster live music offerings in Mississauga over the 2023 summer/fall period.

Staff will assess applications based on eligibility with recommendations for funding approval going forward to the Director of Culture for this period (similar to the Small Matching Grant process).

2023 Community Grants Recommended Funding

The Grants Review Committee is recommending \$1,140,175 in funding be awarded from the Community Grant budget of \$1,201,750; leaving a balance of \$66,575. Six Community organizations are recommended for multi-year grants (see Appendix 3). It is recommended that \$25,000 of the surplus be allocated to the 2023 Small Project Matching Grant Program (SPMG).

2023 Small Projects Matching Grant

A total of six applications were received for the 2023 Small Project Matching Grant Program by the October 14, 2022 deadline. At this time, two applications are recommended for Director approval for a total of \$5,000. The program will be re-opened in the spring to provide an opportunity for additional community groups to request and receive funding in 2023.

Culture and Community Grants Program Review 2023

In 2023, City staff plan to continue reviewing all grant programs, a process which began in 2022. The goal of this review is to increase efficiencies, improve customer service and continue to integrate equity, diversity and inclusion practices into the application and assessment process. Objectives of the Grant Program Review include:

- Reviewing the process from application to peer assessment to final reporting through frameworks of efficiency and equitability;
- Reviewing and further integrating any digital efficiencies from an accessibility and cost-analysis perspective;
- Developing marketing strategies to increase applications from historically-marginalized arts and culture organizations;
- Integrating recommendations from the third-party review of the Culture and Community Grants Program administered through the Culture Programming Gap Analysis in 2022 and;
- Integrating suggestions from the 2022 internal audit consultation process.

The following small improvements have already been included as a result of this review:

- Working with a City of Mississauga Accessibility Specialist to create accessible Grant Guideline documents;
- Improving the Peer Assessment review process to be more thorough and efficient;
- Increasing the number of public information sessions;
- Updating the grants portal questions to be less labour-intensive for the applicants.

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 2023, the assessment committees recommend the following eight 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 \$325,000 and to continue with *Support with Conditions* in 2023. Staff notes that the AGM has made improvements while on *Support with Conditions* in 2022, particularly in relation to the stability of their Board. To ensure continuous improvement in 2023, the AGM will work with the Culture Division over the next year on:

- Continued implementation of the recommendations from the equity and inclusion audit conducted by Regional Diversity Roundtable;
- Continued development of a Communications and Marketing Plan to ensure transparency and promote community engagement; and
- Continuation with Commissioner Jodi Robillos as an ex officio member of AGM's Board of Directors.

Youth Troopers for Global Awareness

The Peer Assessment Committee is recommending an Arts & Culture grant of \$35,000, recognizing the overall contributions of the organization. The Committee also expressed concerns regarding the organization's financial management and alignment with the Arts & Culture grant program. Committee members felt it would be beneficial for the organization to continue on support with conditions to continue efforts towards organizational stability and financial management. The first condition of funding will be that the organization continues to find additional sources of revenue. The second condition of funding is that the organization works with City staff to review its mandate and programming to ensure alignment with City funding streams.

Eagle Spirits of the Great Waters

The Peer Assessment Committee is recommending this organization for an Arts & Culture grant of \$15,000, a project grant of \$5,000, and to be placed on Support with Conditions status to strengthen their grant applications. The Peer Assessors appreciate the important role the organization plays in offering Indigenous programming to the City of Mississauga and believes it would benefit from working with City staff.

Chinese Festival (formerly Dragon Lion Dance Festival)

The Peer Assessment Committee is recommending this organization for a Cultural Festivals & Celebrations grant of \$7,500 and to continue on support with conditions status to ensure a suitable location for the festival is confirmed.

Living with Wellness

The Peer Assessment Committee is recommending this organization for a Cultural Festivals & Celebrations grant of \$7,500 and to be placed on support with conditions to ensure the event aligns with the Culture Master Plan.

Mississauga Writer's Group

The Peer Assessment Committee is recommending that this organization for a Culture Projects Grant of \$1,500 and be placed on support with conditions to assist with their transition from a Culture Project grant application to an Arts & Culture grant application. As the funded project is becoming a yearly application, its future alignment is better suited with the Arts & Culture application.

Community Grants

Erin Mills Youth Centre

The Peer Assessment Committee is recommending the organization for a Multi-Year grant of \$58,000 in 2023, 2024, and 2025, as well as be placed on support with conditions. The organization has undergone substantial changes to their leadership team; the Peer Assessors felt that working with City staff would be beneficial to ensure a smooth transition in grants administration and financial management.

The Mississauga Sports Council

City staff invited The Mississauga Sports Council to apply for a Multi-Year Community Grant. The Peer Assessors felt the application did not make a sufficient business case for three years of funding. The Peer Assessment Committee is recommending to fund only the first year of the proposed multi-year grant at \$120,500 and to place the Mississauga Sports Council on support with conditions to support business continuity while they develop a more robust plan for their proposed services over the next three years for consideration as part of the 2024 Community Grants Program.

Financial Impact

There is no financial impact based on the recommendations in this report. A total budget of \$3,327,415 is recommended by the Peer Assessment Committee for the Culture Grant Programs. A total budget of \$1,140,175 is recommended by the Peer Assessment Committee for the Community Grant Program. A total budget of \$21,475 is recommended by the Peer Assessment Committee to re-open the Live Music Grant Pilot Program. A total budget of \$20,000 is recommended by the Peer Assessment Committee to re-open the Small Projects

Matching Grant. As 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 2023, 88 organizations have been identified to receive funding: 80 groups are being recommended for grant funding along with the eight Culture organizations that were approved in previous years for multi-year funding. According to the members of both Peer Assessment Committees, these groups effectively demonstrated their community impact and their programs and services align with the City's priorities.

Attachments

- Appendix 1: 2022 Grant Committee and 2023-2026 Grant Committee Recommendations
- Appendix 2: 2023 Grant Eligibility Criteria
- Appendix 3: 2023 Recommended Grant Allocations
- Appendix 4: 2023 Culture Projects Grant Allocations
- Appendix 5: 2023-2025 Community Grants Multi-Year Recipients.
- Appendix 6: 2023 Grant Evaluation Summary Sheets



Jodi Robillos, Commissioner of Community Services

Prepared by: Sonja Banic, Manager, Culture Services