

Date: November 5, 2024	Originator's files:
To: Chair and Members of Budget Committee	
From: Jodi Robillos, Commissioner of Community Services	Meeting date: November 18, 2024

## Subject

**Community Services 2025 Grant Requests and Reserve Fund Updates**

## Recommendation

That Budget Committee approve increases to Community Services Grants in 2025 as outlined in the Corporate Report dated November 5, 2024, entitled "Community Services 2025 Grant Requests and Reserve Fund Updates" from the Commissioner of Community Services with the following:

1. That cost centre Recreation Community Grants (28530) be increased with gross and net budget of 62,200 and funded from Tax.
2. That the cost centre Recreation & Culture Grants (28533) be increased with gross budget of \$655,500 and net budget of \$0, and the funding be allocated from the Municipal Accommodation (MAT) Reserve Fund (35591) for 2025.
3. That all necessary by-laws be enacted.

## Executive Summary

- Community Services administers several grant programs, funded from various sources including Tax, Arts Reserve (Tax funded) and MAT Reserve (City's portion of the MAT Tax revenues).
- In June 2024, an Arts and Culture Sub-Committee of Council was established to review the processes and funding for cultural groups and festivals in the City.
- Recommendations were approved by Council on September 25, 2024 including that an additional \$1.5 million dollars be allocated from the city portion of the Municipal Accommodation Tax to help support the cost of the new and increased grant funding, and that if more funding is required, staff report back to Council with that request.
- Staff completed a review of all the grant streams most of which have not been increased in several years.

- Community groups and grant recipients continue to express challenges with operating costs and challenges with other sources of funding.
- Staff endeavoured to streamline and reset the Arts and MAT reserves in 2025 for particular funds and purposes given that some of this funding was previously split. The Arts reserve is 100% tax funded and originated from a Mayor's Task Force which recommended incrementally increasing per capita support for the Arts.
- Staff are recommending increases to all four grant streams in 2025. Some of these increases have been reflected in the 2025 budget. Requests for incremental changes to the budget in this report reflect the incremental increases, not originally included in the 2025 budget submission.

## Background

Community Services administers several grant programs to support community organizations and recipients across the city. Each of these grant programs help to advance priorities for the City of Mississauga across our communities. These grants include:

Community Grants (includes Small project Matching Grants)- The Community Grant supports registered groups delivering programs and services that keep Mississauga residents active, healthy and engaged in their communities through recreation and sport, parks and forestry or environmental activities. Community grants are funded by Tax and Council has approved "over budget" amounts during previous grant reports.

Heritage Grants- Property owners can apply for matching funding to support the conservation, repair, or restoration of a designated heritage property. Projects must show how they are using best practices to protect and conserve a heritage property. Heritage grants have typically been funded through the Arts Reserve (Tax). The City's Heritage Advisory Committee has previously requested increases to Heritage Grants.

Music Grants- Provides funding to offset eligible expenses associated with the presentation of safe and inclusive live music events to Mississauga residents and visitors. Music Grants were part of a pilot project which resulted from the City's Music Strategy. Music Grants have been primarily funded from the MAT Tax (City's portion).

Culture and Festival Grants- Arts and Culture Grants and Cultural Festivals and Celebration grants, Culture Project Grants (separate streams) provide funding to support arts, heritage, and cultural groups, festivals or celebrations in Mississauga. Funding has traditionally been split between Tax, Arts Reserve and MAT Tax on various percentages which have varied year to year.

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approved by Council on September 25, 2024 including that an additional \$1.5 million dollars be allocated from the city portion of the Municipal Accommodation Tax to help support the cost of the new and increased grant funding, and that if more funding is required, staff report back to Council with that request.

Staff reviewed all the grant funding streams to align them with the intentions of the funding source. The Municipal Accommodation Tax (City portion) is intended to support infrastructure, events and venue expenses that support tourism. The MAT Reserve funded the development of the City's first Music Strategy including operations costs which are now being moved to the operating budget (no longer a pilot). Staff are recommending the Music Grants be funded wholly by the MAT Tax.

The Arts Reserve supports public art, cultural studies, and general cultural and project funding. Tax dollars have always fully supported Community Grants since their inception.

## Present Status

Over past several months, staff in Community Services have been working with Finance to align funding streams and projects. Updated funding parameters and process changes have been included and shared with Arts, Culture and Festival funding grant information. The Arts Reserve and MAT Reserve Continuities (Appendix 1) have been updated to reflect these changes.

Ensuring grant programs are sustainable and relevant to community groups and recipients will ensure programs, events and activations continue to make Mississauga a great place to live, visit and enjoy.

## Comments

Most City grants have not been increased in many years. Grant recipients across all of the Community Services grants have expressed concerns with inflationary pressures. Grant recipients contribute to the positive recreation and cultural experiences of residents.

## Financial Impact

The financial impact from the recommendations of the report will result in the following amendments to 2025 budget:

- Community Grants cost centre (28530) gross and net budget increase by \$62,200 and funded from tax.
- For 2025, Rec & Culture Grants (28533) cost centre increase with gross budget of \$655,500 and net budget of \$0 and funded from MAT Reserve Fund #35591. This incremental increase is to meet Council's direction of \$1.5M funding in grants to help support cost of new and increased grant funding. As the 2025 budget was submitted

with \$844,500 increase for total of \$4,500,000. Therefore, only \$655,500 funding is required to meet Council’s direction to increase the budget to \$5,155,500.

- For 2026, the cost centre Rec & Culture Grants (28533) be increased with gross budget of \$1,150,000 and net budget of \$0 and funded from MAT Reserve Fund #35591. This would achieve forecasted budget of \$6,655,500.

The chart below summarizes the grant programs increases as part of the 2025 budget submission and amendments:

**Final Grant Allocation**

	2024	2025	2024 to 2025 Increase	Projected 2026	2025 to 2026 Increase
Community Grants	\$1,201,750	\$1,300,000	\$98,250	\$1,300,000	\$0
Culture Heritage Grants	\$100,000	\$125,000	\$25,000	\$125,000	\$0
Music Grants	\$82,000	\$132,000	\$50,000	\$157,000	\$25,000
Rec&Culture Grants	\$3,655,500	\$5,155,500	\$1,500,000	\$6,655,500	\$1,500,000

**Incremental Budget Increase**

	Original allocation in 2025 Proposed Budget	Final Gross Budget Allocation*	Incremental Gross Budget increase from Proposed 2025 Budget	Incremental Gross Budget increase from Proposed 2026 Budget	Funding Source
Community Grants	\$1,237,802	\$1,300,000	\$62,198	\$0	Tax
Culture Heritage Grants	\$125,000	\$125,000	\$0	\$0	
Music Grants	\$132,000	\$132,000	\$0	\$0	
Rec&Culture Grants	\$4,500,000	\$5,155,500	\$655,500	\$1,500,000	MAT Reserve Fund

\* Per Arts Subcommittee direction

## Conclusion

Community Services administers several grant programs to support community organizations and recipients across the city. Each of these grant programs help to advance priorities for the City of Mississauga across our community. Staff had included some base grant increases in the 2025 budget. The additional request aligns the 2025 budget with the recommendations from the Arts and Culture Sub-Committee of Council and provides an additional increase to the Recreation Community Grant program.

## Attachments

Appendix 1: Arts and MAT Reserve Continuity



Jodi Robillos, Commissioner of Community Services

Prepared by: Kristina Zietsma, Director, Recreation and Culture