



City of
Peterborough

To: **Members of the Committee of the Whole**

From: **Ken Doherty, Director of Community Services**

Meeting Date: **June 22, 2015**

Subject: **Report CSD15-015**
2015 Community Investment Grant Appeals Response

Purpose

A report to respond to 2015 Community Investment Grant appeals from Artspace and the Peterborough Community Chaplaincy.

Recommendations

That Council approve the recommendations outlined in Report CSD15-015, dated June 22, 2015, of the Director of Community Services, as follows:

- a) That a one-time special grant in the amount of \$10,500 be awarded to the Peterborough Community Chaplaincy, with the funds to be allocated from the Arts Culture & Heritage Admin operating budget.
- b) That Artspace be funded from the City's Community Service Grant program commencing in 2015 at a recommended funding level of \$35,000 with the 2015 balance of \$24,500 being funded from the Arts Culture & Heritage Admin operating budget.

Budget and Financial Implications

The recommended award of \$10,500 to the Peterborough Chaplaincy and the recommended award to Artspace for an additional \$24,500 in 2015 for a combined draw of \$35,000 from the Arts Culture & Heritage Admin operating budget, can be accommodated within the existing budget. The one-time grant to Peterborough Chaplaincy will not affect the 2016 Investment Grant Program. The recommended award to Artspace will increase the 2016 Service Grant budget by \$35,000.

Background

In response to Report CSD15-007, dated May 11, 2015, to Committee of the Whole, two organizations appealed the recommendations of the Community Grant Advisory Committee at the Council meeting held May 19th, 2015.

In response to a delegation from Dan Haley, on behalf of the Peterborough Community Chaplaincy, Council passed the following motion:

That Staff provide a report to Council at the June 22, 2015 Committee of the Whole meeting on how best to provide funding to the Peterborough Chaplaincy organization.

In response to a delegation from Patrick Moore, Artspace Board Chair (attached), a Motion to award a one time grant of \$4,500 was defeated. Council approved the original report recommendation pertaining to Artspace as follows:

That Staff be directed to prepare a report to assess whether or not Artspace should be considered for a Community Service Grant in 2016.

Council also encouraged Staff to complete the report for the next cycle. This report responds to Council direction and the appeals.

Peterborough Community Chaplaincy

As outlined in Report CSD15-007, Peterborough Community Chaplaincy missed the 2015 application deadline because they thought they had been awarded multi-year funding in 2014. While they were encouraged to submit a late application, the Community Grant Advisory Committee recommended that they not be awarded an Investment Grant in 2015 because they missed the deadline in a competitive process. The Committee was sympathetic to the organization's plight and recognized that Council could reconsider the matter but not at the expense of other applicants.

In his appeal, Dan Haley informed Council that his organization believed that it had been awarded three year funding in 2014 in the amount of \$10,500 and that there was no need to re-apply. Once he was advised of the error, he quickly resubmitted in the hope of special consideration.

Mr. Haley reminded Council of the important community work done by the Chaplaincy as a transition house, as a palliative care facility, and as a support group for ex-offenders and released sex-offenders. While most of the organization's \$275,000 annual budget comes from the Federal Government, the United Way, and fund-raising, loss of \$10,500 in City funding would have a devastating effect.

In response to concerns raised by Mr. Haley about the way the City advises organizations of the outcome of the grants process, Staff modified the notice process in 2015 to specifically identify whether or not organizations were being recommended for one year or three year funding. In future, Staff will also append the recommendation report to the notice.

Artspace

Through this year's annual Community Investment Grant application, Artspace advised the City of the loss of 10% of its annual operating grant from the Ontario Arts Council in 2016. As one of the oldest and most successful artist-run centres in the province, they requested that the City consider a \$35,000 contribution through the City's Service Grant Program since it provides a higher level of municipal funding support than the Investment Grant program. This request was discussed at the Grant Advisory Committee sub-committee level but it created some confusion about eligibility and process for movement into the Service Grant Program.

Based on the 2015 application and the competitive nature of the Investment Grant process, the Committee recommended that Artspace receive an Investment Grant of \$10,500 for 2015. This represents a \$4,500 decrease over the previous year.

As a result of Report CSD15-007, dated May 11, 2015, Committee of the Whole and ultimately Council approved the recommended allocation. They also approved the following recommendation:

That Staff be directed to prepare a report to assess whether or not Artspace should be considered for a Community Service Grant in 2016.

On May 19th, 2015, Artspace Board Chair, Patrick Moore, appeared in delegation to Council to appeal the 2015 award. During his presentation (enclosed) and subsequent discussion, he expressed concern that the 30 percent reduction in the 2015 grant could adversely affect their annual applications to other funding bodies like the Canada Council and the Ontario Arts Council. He outlined Artspace's programming and community accomplishments, which culminated in an annual audience of 17,000. He expressed some frustration with the City's process for determining how organizations are moved into the Service Grant Program.

The City's Service Grant Program was formalized as a result of Report CSD07-003, dated April 2, 2007, in which Council agreed "to establish Community Service Grant Agreements for all NFP's (Not For Profit organizations) currently receiving City funding through transfers, operating grants, or designated as Municipal Capital Facilities". Council also approved the following recommendation:

Review the role and activities of all NFP's that are eligible for the Community Investment Program or that received Community Grants in the past, during the term of Council, to determine which organizations should be considered for funding through the Community Service Grant Program.

The level of funding for Service Grants is typically \$15,000 and up; not to exceed 25% of the organization's total operating funding. As implied in the title, most organizations in the Service Grant Program provide a specific service that the City would be expected to otherwise provide, but the NFPs can do so more effectively and efficiently.

Organizations cannot apply for entry into this program. Since the base year, from time to time, the Grant Advisory Committee has identified organizations through the annual Grant Approval process on a case by case basis. Several organizations that have become ineligible for Investment Grants because their funding from senior levels of government has exceeded the 80% threshold have also been moved into this funding program so that they can continue to leverage their federal and provincial support.

Original organizations in the program included: Festival of Lights, Canadian Canoe Museum, PACAC, Showplace, Peterborough Green-up, Community and Race Relations, and Community Care. Subsequently, the following organizations have been moved into the Service Grant Program: Peterborough Historical Society/Hutchison House Museum and Kawartha Food Share, 2007; New Canadians Centre, YWCA (one year only) 2008; Market Hall, 2009; and Peterborough Aids Resource Network and Peterborough Native Learning Program, 2014.

Artspace should be considered for funding through the Service Grant Program for the following reasons:

- Artspace is an artist-run centre that assists emerging artists with the development and presentation of their work
- After 40 years, Artspace is one of the first, longest-running, and arguably one of the most successful artist-run centres in the country
- It is a regional resource for artists across 5 counties and is the only artist-run centre between Toronto, Ottawa, Kingston, and North Bay
- Artspace curates or hosts five main gallery exhibits of contemporary art annually, culminating in a local audience of over 17,000
- Its media lab is an invaluable local resource for media arts production and training, especially for local youth
- In partnership with Public Energy, it is expanding its mandate to include emerging performance artists
- While it works closely with the Art Gallery of Peterborough, it does not compete; its focus is on emerging artists at the start of their career
- To retain the current level of programming in the face of "across the board" funding cuts from the Ontario Arts Council, Artspace needs secure funding to keep its two full-time professional staff positions

- Artspace regularly partners with the City in support of City public art initiatives like: Artsweek; the Co-opportunity sculpture in Millennium Park; the Bus Wrap project featuring Jimson Bowler's Big Loon Portage; and currently, the Hunter Street Bridge graffiti project
- Artspace is a valued partner for a host of local arts, culture & heritage organizations across the City
- The Municipal Cultural Plan advocates for a strong cultural presence downtown; Artspace is one of the cornerstones in that foundation
- The City does not have a funding program specific to individual performing, visual, and media artists

The \$35,000 amount recommended, as requested, is approximately 25% of Artspace's 2015 operating budget. Council approval to move Artspace into the Service Grant Program in 2015 will be a tangible indication of City support of their programming in the face of anticipated provincial cuts from the Ontario Arts Council.

Summary

The Community Grant Advisory Committee presented its 2015 recommendations to Council earlier in May. Two organizations – Peterborough Community Chaplaincy and Artspace – appealed the Committee's decision relating to their 2015 funding requests. This report recommends special consideration for both as a result of the potential negative financial impact on their 2015 operating budgets.

Submitted by,

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Attachment:

Appendix A: Correspondence from Patrick Moore, Artspace President, May 19th, 2015

Appendix A



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May 19, 2015

Thank you for giving us an opportunity to address council about our concerns regarding the 30% decrease in community investment funding for Artspace this year. The City of Peterborough's support over the years has been invaluable, and as we are sure you are aware, we rely on an array of funding sources to make ends meet.

By most standards, Artspace runs on a shoestring with over 60% of its total expenses going directly to cultural workers, artists and programming expenses. Rent and utilities represent approximately 21% of our expenses – utility expenses have risen significantly in the last 2 years.

It's important to note that Artspace spent approximately \$9000 less in 2014 than in 2013 and earned an additional \$7700 over 2013 in workshops, memberships, rental fees, donations and other revenue. This year we are not eligible for Trillium funding. A funding cut from OAC was not due to viability - in fact we received their highest rating, but is due to cuts across the board.

All residents of Peterborough should rightfully be proud of how their tax dollars have contributed to support this unique and vital cultural centre. Artspace may be small but we serve an incredibly wide demographic and offer programs, services and resources that are not available elsewhere in the region, with over 17,000 users per year. We've been part of the Peterborough cultural landscape as long as the AGP, longer than Public Energy and are important as part of the downtown urban landscape. Artspace continues to be an important part of the tapestry of attractions that make Peterborough the top tourist destination in the region. A diversity of arts organizations is essential for strong art sector in Peterborough, and as such Artspace plays an important role in the ecology of the local arts community.

Programming

- Artspace has a national reputation, e.g. our current exhibit is listed as a Canadian Art Magazine must-see: its artist Dayna Danger and our director Jonathan Lockyer have been asked to be part of a 3 day international academic conference, Contesting Canada's Future, at Trent in May;
- In fact, our last three shows were all noted by Canadian Art as must-sees, including our successful, interactive 40th Anniversary exhibition which invited community participation to express themselves on the gallery walls..
- As a regional hub for contemporary art it is significant due to its central rural location with proximity to Toronto, Ottawa, Montreal;
- It reflects and presents cross-currents of contemporary and experimental art for the regional arts community.

Education

- Artspace offers substantial educational value with frequent workshops on everything from photography/film to lenticular printing to professional development, unavailable anywhere else locally;
- It is a venue for youth-oriented, ground-breaking exhibitions such as Steve deBruyn's *Wood Push Wood*, an installation with a useable skateboard track made of salvaged materials built within the gallery proper, which reached out to empower and inspire local youth culture; or a low tech stop motion animation workshop with Northern Ontario artist Kerri Flannigan;
- Our on-going, school-age outreach workshops centred around photography, film and recently a scanning/animation workshop in coordination with ReFrame was highly successful.

Community resource

- Our mandate for inclusivity makes Artspace a safe haven for LGBT youth and other marginalized sectors;
- Our agility as a venue is unsurpassed, e.g., structural issues forced the AGP to move Dennis Tourbin exhibit; a Trent University business student presented *Madmen on the Otonabee*, an exhibit of furniture from Trent's architect Ron Thom and other renowned international designers; we function frequently as a community music and performance venue; Artspace has facilitated Artsweek and the 2014 city bus wrap project; we presented an off site talk by Shary Boyle, who represented Canada at the Venice Biennale in 2013; we are an ongoing venue for Trent Film Society;
- Artspace has proven its first class training for cultural workers - Iga Janik is now curator at Cambridge Galleries; Fynn Leitch has gone on to be curator at AGP;
- Artspace provides an important stepping stone for emerging artists, many of whom have gone on to international acclaim such as Dorothy Caldwell;
- Artspace is a repository and preserver of 40 years of Peterborough's cultural memory in archives which are available to the public;
- we are an incubator, e.g. Cinepoetry, Media Arts Peterborough initiatives;
- we contribute to arts advocacy through our associations with AARCO, CARFAC, etc.;
- we offer many kinds of resources – our art and archive library which is searchable through the Sadleir House Alternative Library Catalogue; our media lab offers rentals of film and still cameras, projectors, sound equipment, workstations, software and training; as well as the considerable shared knowledge of members;
- Artspace has a history of successful community collaborations with Trent, AGP, City of Peterborough to name a few.
- Artspace works with local business – recently paired with Publican House Brewery to launch the highly successful Publican Rotarian Beer.
- Chaired a community forum during last fall's municipal election – the conversation was broadly centered around arts funding and how to support cultural workers.

Artspace is listed specifically in our Municipal Cultural Plan as one of Peterborough's Cultural Resources - spaces & facilities, and remains relevant for the fulfillment of our Municipal Cultural Plan, particularly in these areas:

- Strategic Direction 4: Strengthen Downtown as a Cultural Hub
- Strategic Direction 6 Encourage Inclusivity and Facilitate Diversity
- Strategic Direction 7 Build the Capacity of the Arts, Culture, and Heritage Division

We would also like council to clarify for us why the potential for a service grant "was discussed at the sub-committee but not the overall committee level and warrants more investigation." Why was this investigation not completed? We have been seeking the service grant level for several years now. Why do we continue to be put off year after year and why do we keep getting passed up?

Artspace may be small but remains a unique and vital part of Peterborough's arts community. We hope council will reconsider its funding cut or find other sources within its budget to continue to show its support for Artspace.

Thank you,

Patrick Moore
On behalf of the Board of Directors, Artspace