



City of
Peterborough

To: Members of the General Committee

From: Sheldon Laidman, Commissioner, Community Services

Meeting Date: May 9, 2022

Subject: Traill College Amphitheatre Project, Report CSACH22-009

Purpose

To provide information requested by Council at the meeting of March 7, 2022, regarding the Traill College Amphitheatre Project and to respond to a request for funding support

Recommendations

That Council approve the recommendations outlined in Report CSACH22-009, dated May 9, 2022, of the Commissioner of Community Services as follows:

- a) The report be received for information;
- b) That the City provide a pre commitment in the 2023 budget in the amount of \$50,000 towards the Traill College Amphitheatre Project; and,
- c) That the Mayor and Clerk be authorized to execute the funding agreement on terms satisfactory to the Commissioner of Community Services and in forms acceptable to the City Solicitor.

Budget and Financial Implications

Trent University has requested financial assistance in a suggested amount of \$100,000 to assist with the construction of its new amphitheatre at Traill College. Staff have evaluated possibilities of how a contribution could be funded. There are no reserve funds associated with the Arts Culture and Heritage Division to meet this request. If Council chooses to approve such funding immediately during the 2022 fiscal year, it would need to be drawn from the Capital Levy Reserve. Staff are recommending that

the funding instead be a pre-commitment in the 2023 budget. This will allow the project to continue with the assurance of the City's funding commitment and form part of the 2023 budget.

The Community Major Capital Funding Request Policy includes a provision that the total impact to the City's capital budget for such requests in any budget year is not to exceed \$1,000,000. The amount projected for the 2023 budget is \$894,500. Funding the full request of \$100,000 would leave virtually no room for any other projects to be funded in 2023 without an amendment to this policy. Staff are recommending a contribution of \$50,000 to ensure an adequate contribution to the project while ensuring some availability of funding for other projects in the 2023 budget.

The City currently maintains the outdoor stages at Del Crary Park and Nichols Oval, both of which have future capital needs. It is anticipated that this will include a \$96,000 request in the 2024 budget for projects at both locations.

Background

Traill College staff are requesting the City consider providing a financial contribution to this project given this project will benefit both the community and the college. The amphitheatre is intended to be an outdoor community performance venue located in the centre of Traill College campus (See Appendix A, Traill College Amphitheatre Letter from Michael Eamon, for full request).

At the Council meeting of March 7, 2022, Council directed staff to return with a report through the following motion:

- That staff be directed to return to Council in the spring of 2022 with a report on the Traill College Amphitheatre Project including funding options, budget implications, indication of confirmed provincial, federal and private funds received, confirmed community partners, and other benefits for the City to consider contributing to the project.

The following information including the curatorial statement, mandate and partnerships for the project was provided to staff from Dr. Michael Eamon, Principal, Catharine Parr Traill College:

- **Curatorial Statement:** Traill College has been at the centre of empowerment and community-focused expression for five decades. Using the Jalynn Bennett Amphitheatre, the College will seek out new professional partnerships and foster innovative collaborations in performance and expression. We particularly believe that young artists need a place to experiment under professional guidance and mentorship. Traill College will be a showcase for the work of professional artists and will — through relationship building and program development — foster mentorship opportunities and build bridges between the professional and amateur communities.

- **Community Focused Mandate:** Traill College traditionally has enjoyed a strong bond with the greater Peterborough community and has been a strong supporter of the arts. The spring-summer season (5 months) will focus on the needs of professional organizations in Peterborough, prioritizing the needs of 4th Line Theatre as well as accommodating our other professional partners. We anticipate more student and youth-focused use in the fall academic term (2 months – September and October) as well as the continued interest of groups such as Public Energy, the Peterborough Historical Association, the Art Gallery of Peterborough, Peterborough Singers and Hospice Peterborough. The Jalynn Bennett Amphitheatre project has been officially endorsed both by the EC3 (Electric City Culture Council) and the City of Peterborough's Arts, Culture, and Heritage Advisory Committee.
- **Fundraising to Date:** A vigorous fundraising effort is underway. The college is not eligible for provincial funds (i.e., Trillium, etc.), but have been successful with other avenues.

The current construction cost projection for the Amphitheatre is just over \$1.4 million. To date \$910,000 (\$560,000 Federal Funds (Department of Canadian Heritage, Cultural Spaces Fund) \$150,000 Private Donation, Estate of Jalynn Bennett, \$200,000 Other Donations and Internal Transfers). The request is for a \$100,000 grant from the City of Peterborough.

- **Confirmed Community Partners* and Supporters:** According to the information provided by Trent, the following groups have confirmed their support for the project: 4th Line Theatre; Public Energy; Peterborough Historical Society; Peterborough Symphony Orchestra; Indigenous Fringe Festival; Art Gallery of Peterborough; Peterborough Singers; New Stages Theatre; Hospice Peterborough; EC3; and the City's Arts, Culture and Heritage Committee.

The Arts, Culture and Heritage Committee (ACHAC) passed the following motion through Report ACHAC21-015 May 2021;

- That the Jalynn Bennett Amphitheatre Project at Traill College in Peterborough be endorsed by the City of Peterborough Arts, Culture and Heritage Advisory Committee.

Community Major Capital Funding Request Policy

In 2017, Report CPFS17-063 Community Major Capital Funding Request Policy was passed. This project as proposed meets the expectations and requirements of this policy.

The Policy is provided as Appendix B. The following provides highlights as to how the project meets the main elements of the Policy. The purpose of the Policy is to recognize the importance and value of providing funding support to community organizations for Major Capital Projects that benefit the community and/or contribute to the City's Strategic Framework.

The policy defines a Major Capital Project as a project with the value equal to or greater than \$500,000, enhances the community vitality, improves quality of life within the community, builds, renovates, or redevelops a community asset in the area of sport, recreation, arts, culture, or social services; and/or helps the City achieve its strategic objectives.

Section 4.1 lays out the basic requirements of which organizations are eligible. Trent University is an incorporated body in Ontario (The Trent University Act of 1963) with charitable status.

Traill College is a downtown campus of Trent University which has existed for over 50 years demonstrating a successful track record and ability to carry out projects of this nature with sound financial management. Trent University was founded in 1964 with a long history of partnerships with the City and Community.

The project complies with the seven main elements of section 4.3 of the policy including being in the public interest, aligning with the City's strategic framework through the Municipal Cultural Plan, and it will be accessible and open to community groups. Although the city has two outdoor stages this project is unique in its size and intimate nature that will allow smaller community groups and students to enjoy participating in unique programming in an appropriately sized setting.

- A Curatorial Statement has been submitted describing the use and benefit of the project.
- A number of partners and supporters of this program have been outlined in the request and the Federal funding agreement does also require community access.
- The policy includes a number of considerations for a contribution amount.
- This \$100,000 request does fall within the policy limit of 25% of total project cost of 1.4 million and would help to leverage additional funding resources.
- The project will require a building permit. The policy does contemplate the possibility of the waiver of municipal fees; however, staff are not recommending to do so.
- If this request is supported a formal agreement would be entered into between the City and Trent University.

Municipally Supported Arts Venues and Benefits to the City

The City annually financially supports the following venues:

- Showplace through a service grant of \$141,602; and,
- Market hall through a service grant of \$80,337

The City also maintains the stages at Del Crary park and Nichols Oval both of which require capital upgrades of approximately \$96,000 in the next few years.

The anticipated benefits to the City of Peterborough though financial support would include:

- Additional performance space for local arts, culture, and heritage organizations, many of whom the city already supports.
- A unique feature which sets this project apart from existing city facilities is the small intimate outdoor setting of this space creating a venue for small events and programming opportunities.
- Potential to strengthen student and community engagement opportunities.
- Strengthen ties with arts sector groups as Covid recovery continues.

This project also supports The Municipal Cultural Plan Strategic Direction 4 - Strengthen the Downtown Cultural Hub specifically:

- Item 4.5.1 - Recognize the value that the post-secondary institutions bring to the Downtown; and,
- Item 4.3.2 - Collaborate with them to explore opportunities for program delivery in the Downtown and Facilitate more programming of Downtown public spaces

Summary

A request has been received from Traill College requesting financial support for its amphitheatre project. The intention of the facility is to be a community-oriented facility that will help support community arts groups as well as Traill College.

Submitted by,

Sheldon Laidman
Commissioner of Community Services

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Manager of Arts, Culture and Heritage

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Attachments:

Appendix A - Traill College Amphitheatre Letter from Michael Eamon



CATHARINE PARR TRAILL COLLEGE
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Sheldon Laidman
Commissioner, Community Services
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25 March 2022

Dear Sheldon,

As you know, in May 2021 the City's Arts, Culture, and Heritage Committee officially endorsed the proposed Jalynn Bennett Amphitheatre project and recommended to council that discretionary budget funds be allocated if possible (see attached document). We are very grateful for this endorsement and believe that it was a key factor in the recent \$560,000 grant from the Government of Canada's Cultural Spaces fund.

We believe that the Jalynn Bennett Amphitheatre at Traill College will be a truly unique and important space for the entire Peterborough community that builds on the University's commitment to the vibrancy and success of downtown Peterborough. It will be Peterborough's first professionally-equipped Amphitheatre. Representatives from the Department of Canadian Heritage, in explaining their support for the Amphitheatre project have remarked that such outdoor spaces will help the public engage with the arts after the devastating effects of the pandemic. Operated and maintained by Trent University, it will indeed welcome both amateur and professional artists and offer a much-needed outdoor venue for artistic expression in the City.

Trent University and the City of Peterborough have a long and strong history of collaboration and shared funding for community spaces. This includes the new Trent Community Sport and Recreation Centre opened in 2011 to which the City donated \$1 million, and the City of Peterborough Sports Fields on the East Bank of our Symons Campus. This project is an opportunity to collaborate in a similar way, yet with an important arts and culture space for the community.

The current construction projection for the Amphitheatre is just over \$1.4 million. To date, we have raised over \$900K through grants and donations and are working hard to close the remaining gap of approximately \$500K. This will be done through the pursuit of further donations, in-kind contributions, and funds from the university. As you know, we are ineligible for provincial Trillium funding; however, approximately \$100K in provincial infrastructure funds will be earmarked for this project.

I am writing today to inquire about the state of the endorsement and budget recommendation from the ACHC. It is our hope that City may consider some form of assistance to help this vision become a reality. We would be grateful for any type of support; however, a grant of \$100,000 would be a generous and useful contribution to help us close the gap on what will be a popular performance venue that will strengthen and expand the relationship between Trent and the larger community.

To date, we have raised approximately \$910,000 towards the project, a more detailed breakdown as follows:

- \$560,000 Federal Funds (Department of Canadian Heritage, Cultural Spaces Fund)
- \$150,000 Private Donation, Estate of Jalynn Bennett

- \$200,000 Other Donations and Internal Transfers



Above you will find a map of Traill College with a clear indication where the proposed venue will be situated. You will also find a brochure that we are using for fundraising purposes. I have highlighted some key information from that brochure here:

Confirmed Community Ampitheatre Partners* and Supporters

4th Line Theatre*, Public Energy*, Peterborough Historical Society*, Peterborough Symphony Orchestra*, Indigenous Fringe Festival*, Art Gallery of Peterborough, Peterborough Singers, New Stages Theatre, Hospice Peterborough, EC3, Arts, Culture and Heritage Committee

CURATORIAL STATEMENT

Traill College has been at the centre of empowerment and community-focused expression for five decades. Using the Jalyann Bennett Amphitheatre, the College will seek out new professional partnerships and foster innovative collaborations in performance and expression. We particularly believe that young artists need a place to experiment under professional guidance and mentorship. Traill College will be a showcase for the work of professional artists and will — through relationship building and program development — foster mentorship opportunities and build bridges between the professional and amateur communities.

