



City of
Peterborough

To: Members of the Arts and Culture Advisory Committee

From: Jennifer Jones, Director, Arts & Culture (Acting)

Meeting Date: June 25, 2024

Report: Report from the Acting Director of Arts and Culture, Report ACAC24-016

Subject

A report to provide an update on the status of the Arts and Culture division in the City of Peterborough.

Recommendation

That the Arts and Culture Advisory Committee approve the recommendation outlined in Report ACAC24-016, dated June 25, 2024, of the Acting Director of Arts and Culture as follows:

That the report on the status of the Arts and Culture division in the City of Peterborough be received for information.

Executive Summary

Status updates on:

- Poet Laureate
- Community Grants
- Professional Artists Grant 2-year pilot project
- Public Art
- Peterborough Museum and Archives
- Art Gallery of Peterborough
- Economic Development
- Municipal Cultural Plan
- Every Child Matters Community Project

Background

Poet Laureate

After the May ACAC meeting and additional conversations with City staff, EC3 was notified that arrangements would be made for the Poet Laureate to return to Council before the end of their term. A date will be given by the clerk's office when the current Poet can be accommodated on Council's schedule. No date has been given as of the time of writing this report.

EC3 was also advised that the agreement terms for the next and future Poet Laureate must follow the original motion approved by Council. In particular:

That the Poet be formally introduced to Council through attendance at a Council meeting during their term of appointment

There will be other opportunities for Civic Engagement for the Poet Laureate, but a performance at the Council will not be one of them.

Community Grants

A report (CSD24-003) outlining changes to the Community Service Grants program was presented to Council at the June 17, 2024, meeting. The Community Service Grant program be transitioned to the new Community Service Agreement program for 2025. This is the first follow-up on the broad changes to the Community Grants Program approved by Council in October 2023 (CSAC23-008).

A recent historical look at this grant funding's recipients was completed as the report was being developed and has been broken down by sector:

Sector	2022 Funding	2023 Funding	2024 Funding
Arts	\$401,583	\$407,607	\$417,328
Social Services	\$238,935	\$242,519	\$261,195
Heritage	\$152,356	\$153,016	\$153,687
Environment	\$323,225	\$328,074	\$245,833
Total Funding	\$1,116,099	\$1,131,216	\$1,078,043

*Please note: the reduction for 2024 is due to the removal of funding for the Agricultural Society from this category of grants.

Further information on the changes to Community Grants will be brought back as information to this Committee as things develop.

Professional Artists Grant pilot project

The Art Gallery of Peterborough (AGP) has led this initiative in consultation with EC3. A key element of this project was the community consultation in March 2024 and the resulting Arising Collective consultation report (shared as part of Report ACAC24-014).

The AGP and EC3 are working to develop and finalize the grant framework, guiding principles, and other details necessary to launch this grant in the fall.

A timeline was created to ensure the effective rollout of the grant:

Action	Timeline
Funding distributed	Spring 2025
Grants Close	4 December
Grants Open	6 November
Orientation Sessions (Virtual and in-person)	Mid-October
Council Approval	23 September
General Committee	16 September
Administrative Services Committee Review	28 Aug and 5 Sept
Report to Commissioner for review	21 August
Report finalizing and policy completion	7 August
Information to PTS to create a database/application	1 August
DEI Review - Pilot program	17 July
Final grant information to the (Acting) Director for review	8 July

The two-year pilot project has been confirmed as one year of development in 2024, with two years of funding in 2025 and 2026. Some required reporting elements do not yet have a specific timeline associated with them. The initial estimate is for a report to go to Council in the fall of 2025 after the first year of funding has been awarded, with a final wrap-up report of the pilot project after the funding is awarded in early 2026.

These reports would provide the opportunity to reflect on the pilot project's success and challenges and recommend changes or improvements to the professional artist's grant.

Public Art

There are several Public Art projects in progress. Appendix A provides an overview of these in the Public Art Project Planning Matrix 2024.

The Flood Commemoration Project, number 3 on the attached list, will not proceed in 2024. The Planning Department and Arts and Culture staff are exploring alternative methods of commemorating the 20th anniversary of the Flood. A focus will be placed on the 25th anniversary, which should provide ample time to ensure planning and execution are completed.

Peterborough Museum and Archives

The Peterborough Museum & Archives (PMA) 2024 exhibits focused strongly on languages and communication.

2024 also saw the unveiling of the PMA's new branding. The new look decolonized the PMA's visual identifier, which was critical in the context of necessary and fundamental changes within the Canadian museum and archives profession. It also shows the PMA's commitment to advocating for meaningful truth and reconciliation in all activities.

The PMA has been recognized with a Canadian Museums Association Award of Outstanding Achievement for Exhibitions for *To Honour and Respect: Gifts from Michi Saagiig Women to the Prince of Wales, 1860*. (Please see the letter from the Executive Director of the Ontario Museum Association in Appendix B)

<https://www.peterborough.ca/en/news/peterborough-museum-archives-recognized-with-national-award-by-the-canadian-museums-association.aspx>

The Museum's Director attended the 2024 Indigenous Heritage and History Gathering in Ottawa in early June. <https://ihhg.ca/> It was a very emotional, rewarding, educational, powerful and humbling experience. There was incredible trauma, but also incredible strength demonstrated.

The PMA is now officially Rainbow Registered, an accreditation administered by Canada's 2SLGBTQI+ Chamber of Commerce that reflects the commitment to creating a safer, more welcoming and inclusive space for the 2SLGBTQI+ community.

The Rainbow Registered accreditation process evaluates applicants on four categories of criteria:

- policies and practices are non-discriminatory and respectful of sexual orientation and gender identity.
- provides diversity and inclusion training for staff and volunteers and contributes to public education on diversity and inclusion.
- demonstrates leadership and commitment to LGBT+ inclusion beyond its day-to-day operations.
- has established an organizational culture that is LGBT+-inclusive and affirmative.

<https://www.peterborough.ca/en/news/peterborough-museum-and-archives-now-officially-rainbow-registered.aspx>

There is some concern that the PMA will compete with the Canadian Canoe Museum for visitors now that their new facility is located nearby. Staff are discussing ways to adapt to this new reality.

Art Gallery of Peterborough

The Art Gallery of Peterborough (AGP) will receive \$25,000 from Digital Museums Canada, a funding program managed by the Canadian Museum of History, to produce an online exhibition about the Gallery's history.

"Permaculture: The Story of the Art Gallery of Peterborough" was one of eight selected from across the country by an independent advisory committee as part of the Digital Museums Canada (DMC) Community Stories funding stream.

This project will celebrate the hard work, dedication, and grassroots collaboration of a community primarily driven by women who were devoted to the prosperity of arts and culture in the Peterborough-Kawartha region. The completed digital exhibition is expected to launch in 2026 and will explore the origin story of the Art Gallery of Peterborough and take a deep dive into a few key moments in its history.

<https://www.peterborough.ca/en/news/art-gallery-of-peterborough-receives-25-000-in-funding-for-online-exhibition.aspx>

The AGP continues to facilitate annual programming such as the Kawartha Autumn Studio Tour, the It's All About Art Fundraising Auction, the Youth Art Mentorship Program, and a variety of activities for children of all ages. In the gallery, the AGP presents contemporary visual art by artists from the region and across the nation.

Economic Development

In a report to Council on June 17, 2024 (CAO24-003), it was announced that the City is working on a strategy for the efficient and effective delivery of in-house municipal economic development and tourism services.

This integration of services is a work in progress. Using excerpts from the CAO's report below, the initial plans include:

- The Economic Development Division will be established within the Infrastructure, Planning and Growth Management Department (IPGM) to benefit from the expertise and resources related to planning, development, and infrastructure that can be central for economic development proposals.
- Tourism promotion and marketing will involve the creation of the Experience Peterborough branding, with the Arts and Culture, Recreation and Park Services, and Strategic Communications and Service Peterborough divisions supporting tourism functions to attract events and market the city as a destination.

The Tourism function would be incorporated into the current work programs and structures of the Strategic Communications and Service Peterborough Division, Recreation and Park Services Division and the Arts and Culture Division to leverage the existing services and expertise provided in each of those program

areas. While the staffing resources would be within the three Divisions, the public-facing identity for Peterborough tourism would be a single branding, Experience Peterborough, with staff contacts grouped together as a single public-facing team and staff working in collaboration on tourism-related activities.

A follow-up report is planned for an August Council meeting. The initial report recommends that the IPGM department begin the transition of Economic Development immediately, with the tourism aspect coming over in the new year. This should provide City staff with some time to further examine the situation and possibilities for a January 1, 2025, tourism service launch.

Municipal Cultural Plan

The refresh and redevelopment of the City's Municipal Cultural Plan (MCP) will be a priority to roll out in 2025. With the changes mentioned above in this report (e.g. economic development and tourism) coming to the City, the timing is conducive to moving ahead with updating the MCP. A timeline will be developed and brought back to this committee for approval at the next meeting.

The delay in getting this project off the ground was unexpectedly advantageous, as staff can now absorb and understand the aforementioned changes, as well as consult with staff in the new portfolio areas to ensure the MCP is accurate and actionable.

Every Child Matters Community Project

The Every Child Matters community project is an initiative to create a pedestrian space that honours the victims, survivors and families of the Residential School system and reflects the commitment of our community to the Truth and Reconciliation process.

Youth aged 7 to 11 are invited to create an artwork that reflects the theme "What does Truth and Reconciliation mean to me?"

The selected artwork(s) will be adapted to a stencil design that will be painted on the surface of a sidewalk or trail crossing in the City of Peterborough.

Encouraging participation of local youth, the project speaks to ongoing education about the legacy of Residential Schools, and the importance of reconciliation actions. It will be a space that encourages reflection and inspires further conversation and learning.

The Every Child Matters project is expected to be installed in September 2024, aligning with National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. The location will be confirmed later this summer.

An exhibition of artwork submitted for this project will be displayed throughout September at the Peterborough Public Library.

<https://www.peterborough.ca/en/explore-and-play/every-child-matters-community-project.aspx>

Strategic Plan

Strategic Pillar: Community & Well-being

Municipal investment in the arts and culture brings several benefits to the community some of which include cultural enrichment, economic growth, community identity, social cohesion, and quality of life.

Budget and Financial Implications

There are no budget or financial implications resulting from the approval of the recommendation of this report.

Attachments

Appendix A – Public Art Project Planning Matrix 2024

Appendix B – Peterborough Museum CMA Award To Honour And Respect

Submitted by,

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