



City of
Peterborough

To: Members of the Accessibility Advisory Committee
From: Mark Buffone, Accessibility Compliance Specialist
Meeting Date: December 4, 2024
Report: Access Fund Request from PPL, Report AAC24-021

Subject

A report to seek approval for an Access Fund Request from the Peterborough Public Library (PPL) for a modular sound baffle system.

Recommendations

That the Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC) approve the recommendations outlined in Report AAC24-021, dated December 4, 2024 of the Accessibility Compliance Specialist as follows:

- a) That a presentation from the Peterborough Public Library's Facility and Collections Support Supervisor, about the Access Fund Request, be received for information;
- b) That an Access Fund Request in the amount of \$5,000.00 be approved for a modular sound baffle system.

Executive Summary

- The AAC is asked to review and approve an Access Fund Request from the Peterborough Public Library totaling \$5,000.00.
- The Peterborough Public Library continues to explore how to make the facility more accessible for people with disabilities who visit the library.

Background

Description of Request

Materials and labour to fabricate a modular sound baffle system for the Peterborough Public Library.

Amount of Funds Requested

The amount requested is \$5,000.00 including tax. Breakdown:

- \$4,560.00 - materials
- \$440.00 - labour to assemble

Expected Date of Project Completion

The project will be completed by February 2025.

Facility Background and Reason for Access Fund Request

The Peterborough Public Library is a multi-purpose public space that has roughly 24,000 visitors every month. A large portion of visitors to the space come for library programming and public events hosted in the library.

Since the completion of a major renovation in 2018, the library frequently receives feedback about the need to upgrade acoustics in various spaces. Some areas of the library are large open spaces, with hard surfaces that contribute to excessive sound travel and reflection. The library is exploring solutions to lower background noise, improve clarity of speech and improve concentration, understanding and attention span of listeners. Good acoustics play a key role in making a space accessible and user-friendly for all, especially for people with various hearing and sensory related disabilities.

The Friends of the Library (FOL) Community Room in the lower level of the building has the highest need for acoustic upgrades due to the hard surfaces on the walls, ceiling, floor and furnishings. The room is regularly used to host programming, public consultation meetings, private functions and public events, and serves as a busy voting site for municipal elections.

The Peterborough Public Library is seeking funds to fabricate a set of modular acoustic sound baffles that are compatible with the existing art rail systems throughout the building and fabricate a portion of the units on casters. A mix of approximately forty 4'x4' and 4'x8' baffles will initially be installed in the FOL Community Room, with the ability to easily relocate panels to various spaces in the library. The modular baffle system will help improve overall sound quality, give the library flexibility to divide spaces for intimate settings, and help minimize disruptions to adjacent areas of the library.

Reference Image



Figure 1: View of the Friends of the Library Community Room, located in the lower level of the Peterborough Public Library

Strategic Plan

Strategic Pillar: Governance & Fiscal Sustainability

Strategic Initiative: “Invest in infrastructure to ensure it meets the future needs of our growing City

Improvements to acoustics at the Peterborough Public Library will help make the facility more accessible for people with disabilities.

Engagement and Consultation

The Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act and the Integrated Accessibility Standards Regulation requires the City to consult with the AAC on how to make City projects, programs and services more accessible for everyone.

Budget and Financial Implications

The Peterborough Public Library Access Fund request is for \$5,000.00. The current Access Fund balance available is \$70,903.05. Approval of the Peterborough Public Library Access Fund request would result in a projected Access Fund balance of \$65,903.05.

Submitted by,

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