



City of
Peterborough

To: Members of the Arts, Culture & Heritage Advisory Committee

From: Becky Rogers, Manager, Arts, Culture and Heritage Division

Meeting Date: June 8, 2017

Subject: Report ACHAC17-032
Poet Laureate Report

Purpose

A report to advise the Arts Culture and Heritage Advisory Committee (ACHAC) of a presentation from the Peterborough Poetry Slam Collective on their request for a Municipal Poet Laureate.

Recommendation

That the ACHAC approve the recommendation outlined in Report ACHAC17-032, dated June 8, 2017 of the Manager, Arts, Culture and Heritage Division, as follows:

That the presentation from the Peterborough Poetry Slam Collective be received for information and discussion.

Budget and Financial Implications

There are no financial implications at this time.

Background

The Peterborough Poetry Slam Collective is a working collective of spoken word artists. Since 2007 they have been running a monthly poetry slam and feature series. They expose local spoken word artists and enthusiasts to diverse poetry performances, and create opportunities for touring Canadian poets. The Collective strives to:

- expand conceptions of poetry and spoken word by collaborating with community organizations to feature artists at otherwise literary or music-based events;
- create accessible, safer spaces dedicated to the creation and performance of poetry;
- build the skills, talents and confidence of local writers and performers, and enrich the local spoken word community by providing opportunities for interaction with visiting spoken word artists;
- encourage and promote performances of poetry that are engaging, interactive and relevant, and provide educational opportunities for local artists and enthusiasts

They contribute to Peterborough's arts and culture by featuring diverse spoken word artists and poets from across the country; and work with community and provincial/national partners to promote spoken word as an art form and as a vehicle for driving social justice and community engagement.

They have sent poets to perform in the Canadian Independent Poetry Slam Championship and have sent four teams to perform in poetry slams at the Canadian Festival of Spoken Word. Veteran poets from the collective have also gone on to feature nationally and internationally. In October the Peterborough Poetry Slam Collective is hosting the Canadian Festival of Spoken Word. The festival will see approximately 150 poets from across Canada descend on Peterborough for a week of feature performances, master classes and Poetry Slam.

In light of their success, the Collective would like to initiate a poet laureate program for Peterborough.

Submitted by,

Becky Rogers,
Manager, Arts, Culture and Heritage Division

Contact Name:
Becky Rogers,
Manager, Arts, Culture & Heritage Division
Phone: 705-742-7777, Ext.1442
Toll Free: 1-855-738-3755
Fax: 705-743-2614
E-Mail: brogers@peterborough.ca