



City of
Peterborough

TO: Members of Arts Culture & Heritage Advisory Committee

FROM: Becky Rogers, Manager, Arts, Culture, & Heritage Division

MEETING DATE: September 9, 2010

SUBJECT: Report ACHAC10-026
Culture Days & Artsweek

PURPOSE

A report to update the Arts, Culture & Heritage Advisory Committee on the preparations for Culture Days and Artsweek.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Arts Culture & Heritage Advisory Committee (ACHAC) approve the recommendation outlined in Report ACHAC10-026 dated September 9, 2010, of the Manager, Arts Culture & Heritage Division as follows:

That the report to update the Arts, Culture & Heritage Advisory Committee on the preparations for Culture Days and Artsweek be received for information.

BUDGET AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no additional budget or financial implications resulting from this report. Artsweek is funded on an annual basis through the Arts, Culture and Heritage Budget, Doors Open Peterborough receives funding through PACAC, and the Art Gallery of Peterborough provides support to the Kawartha Autumn Studio Tour through its budget. The Peterborough & Area Culture Days Steering Committee and all other local Culture Days events are being funded by external organizations.

BACKGROUND

Culture Days

Culture Days is a nation-wide event that is open to all communities and individuals who believe in making the public aware of the importance of the arts and culture to their lives. Culture Days take place during the last weekend of September (September 24 - 26 in 2010).

During Culture Days, individuals, groups, and municipalities across Canada are invited to provide free opportunities for the public to experience and participate in cultural activities. The events can include open houses, tours, workshops, demonstrations, etc.

A local steering committee was formed to coordinate Culture Days activities in the Peterborough area. The Committee included representation from various local cultural organizations, as well as media, business, and government representatives. Market Hall and Showplace submitted a grant application to the Community Futures Development Corporation, and received \$7500 in support of Culture Days. Some of that money has been used to hire Bill James as Peterborough & Area Culture Days Coordinator. Peterborough is the only city in Ontario with a Culture Days coordinator.

Bill has encouraged cultural producers in the Peterborough area to register events. More than 70 events have been registered within 40 km of the city. Maps will be produced showing the location of each of these events.

Doors Open Peterborough has a long-standing relationship with Peterborough This Week (PTW). PTW has been the media sponsor for Doors Open Peterborough for several years. This year, PTW will help to promote Culture Days, as well. A media sponsorship is also being negotiated with Star 93.3 and The Breeze.

Artsweek

Lindsay Leitch, Coordinator of Artsweek, made a presentation to ACHAC on June 10. Appendix A is a letter from Ms Leitch to update the Committee on the preparations for Artsweek 2010 that have occurred since the presentation.

Submitted by,

Becky Rogers
Manager, Arts, Culture & Heritage

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Municipal Cultural Planning Researcher

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Appendix A – Artsweek Update

Greetings ACHAC,

Artsweek Peterborough is in the midst of tying all the loose ends in preparation for this year's festival. It is a busy time but everything seems to be falling nicely into place. Artsweek 2010 will present 10 installations, 4 videos and 10 performance pieces. The opening day Art in the Park will again be presented in Millennium Park along with tours of the art installations, and a variety of musical acts and closing day festivities will be held on Hunter St. Beginning in the afternoon and continuing into the evening, the closing day will be filled with puppet theatre, dub poetry, music and more. Recently, Artsweek and Peterborough Pride decided to pool resources to acquire a shared downtown office with good storefront presence for the week leading up to and the week of our respective festivals, which have again been scheduled on the same dates. We hope that this office will become a temporary community hub of activity.

This year, there are multiple avenues through which people can become actively involved. Meagan O'Shea's piece, *Dance Like No One is Watching*, begins as a series of training sessions that will build a troop of dancers who will perform twice on the closing day of Artsweek. *Jack and the Beanstalk Go Downtown* will offer adults and children alike a chance to participate by building props and performing in the piece. Also, Laura Kavanaugh and Ian Birse will run a workshop aimed at artists interested in exploring real-time transformation of sounds, images, and movement for performance or installation work, or as a way to generate material for audio/video compositions.

Most important to report however, is that Artsweek is still in need of an active and committed board. I plan to have a meeting to seek input from the Peterborough community, with specific interest in discovering what the local arts community wants. This meeting could also identify potential new board members. An involved and creative board is essential for the growth of Artsweek. In its sixth year, the festival is at the right age to reinvent itself. The meeting will be open to anyone who wishes to attend, details will be announced during Artsweek.

Lindsay Leitch
Coordinator, Artsweek Peterborough