



City of
Peterborough

TO: Members of the Arts, Culture & Heritage Advisory Committee (ACHAC)

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

MEETING DATE: May 10, 2012

SUBJECT: Report ACHAC12-010
Culture Council Open House Report

PURPOSE

A report to recommend that the Committee receive an update on the outcomes of the Culture Council Open House.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Arts, Culture & Heritage Advisory Committee approve the recommendation outlined in Report ACHAC12-010 dated May 10, 2012 of the Manager of Arts, Culture & Heritage as follows:

- a) That the Advisory Committee receives an update on the outcomes of the Culture Council Open House held April 28, 2012.

BUDGET AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no budgetary or financial implications at this time as a result of approving the recommendations in report ACHAC12-010.

BACKGROUND

On April 28, 2012 the City hosted an Open House for the community to begin framing its vision for an independent organization to support arts, culture and heritage organizations and individuals. 61 people plus staff attended the workshop facilitated by Dawn Berry Merriam and participated in a series of discussions about the composition, mandate, structure and communication framework for the organization. Ideas were collected through small group discussions and presented to the attendees to be ranked in order of importance. The most significant concepts that emerged were:

Mandate, Mission

Promote Peterborough's culture as unique and Peterborough as a desirable destination.

Strengthen the culture community by sharing resources and skills, coordinating, communicating, supporting and advocating for the sector.

Composition

Have a central board and committee structure (pods) that recognizes culture in its broadest sense.

Make the organization very inclusive so that new faces feel they have a voice.

Communication

There needs to be a facility, a Culture Centre- A real place to call home.

Use technology and social media, and traditional media to best effect, e.g. calendar aggregator, centralized promotions.

The vision of the structure for the Council that emerged was one which connected to a broad range of sectors and groups but with formal governance structure that would let it access funding opportunities. All agreed that the organization needed to define culture broadly. Some participants felt that it should follow a model like the Chamber of Commerce that provides programming and cohesiveness for its membership. Others saw a model that was less proscriptive, taking on a facilitation role, with an education and advisory capacity. It was generally agreed that the organization should practice values that made it transparent, Inclusive and innovative.

Other ideas that resonated with the group included:

Recognizing the place of 'consumers of culture' and the role they play in supporting culture/heritage in the structure of the Council;

Making sure that the Council was a constructive tool for keeping culture on the municipal and community agenda;

Use culture to communicate the impact of change on the social fabric of the community;

Using grant/foundation based funding rather than fee-for-service funding;

Promoting understanding across sectors i.e. sports groups, artisan groups;

Developing a system of mentorship to help people who are interested in new cultural activities (of all ages);

Serving both residents of Peterborough and visitors to the community;

Championing the importance of our quality and sense of place;

Making sure the governance structure includes both new and emerging members of the cultural community;

Ensuring that there is solid succession planning to maintain continuity;
Including Council members in the governance structure.

There was also some discussion on a name for the organization. There was a desire to see it be something dynamic so that it could be successfully branded and marketed. It also needs to be logical and representative of the aims of the groups so that funders will remember and understand it. Some suggestions included: The Chamber of Culture, Electric City Culture Council and Creative Kawarthas. Further discussion about the name will follow.

Submitted by,

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