



City of
Peterborough

To: Members of Budget Committee

From: Ken Doherty, Director of Community Services

Meeting Date: November 23, 2015

**Subject: Report CSD15-023
2016 Community Service Grant Consideration for Artspace**

Purpose

A report to consider 2016 Community Service Grant funding for Artspace.

Recommendations

That Council approve the recommendations outlined in Report CSD15-023, dated November 23, 2015, of the Director of Community Services, as follows:

- a) That Artspace be funded from the City's Community Service Grant program, commencing in 2016;
- b) That the 2016 funding for Artspace be \$20,000 with the funds transferred from the Community Services Administration Sponsorship budget; and
- c) That the Draft 2017 Budget include an additional \$15,000 for a total allocation of \$35,000 for Artspace in 2017.

Budget and Financial Implications

Currently, this item appears in the Budget Highlight Book as a "below the line" item in order to meet the budget target. The recommended \$20,000 contribution represents a reallocation of the 2016 Sponsorship funds within the Community Services Administration budget. The balance in this fund after the transfer will be \$30,000.

Background

Council Direction

As a result of Report CSD15-007, dated May 11, 2015, of the Committee of the Whole, Artspace appealed the recommendations of the Community Grant Advisory Committee at the Council meeting held May 19th, 2015. Council, however, approved the original report recommendation pertaining to Artspace as follows:

That Staff be directed to prepare a report to assess whether or not Artspace should be considered for a Community Service Grant in 2016.

Report CSD15-015, dated June 22, 2015, allowed Council to resolve the perceived 2015 funding shortfall and deferred a decision on the 2016 request with the following direction:

That Artspace be awarded a one time grant of \$4,500, allocated from the Arts, Culture and Heritage Administration operating budget and,

That Staff prepare a report for the 2016 budget process on the allocation of funds for Artspace.

Artspace's Situation

Through this year's annual Community Investment Grant application, Artspace advised the City of the loss of 10% of its annual operating grant from the Ontario Arts Council in 2016. As one of the oldest and most successful artist-run centres in the province, they requested that the City consider a \$35,000 contribution through the City's Service Grant Program since it provides a higher level of municipal funding support than the Investment Grant program.

This request was discussed at the Grant Advisory Committee sub-committee level but it created some confusion about eligibility and process for movement into the Service Grant Program. Based on the 2015 application and the competitive nature of the Investment Grant process, the Committee recommended that Artspace receive an Investment Grant of \$10,500 for 2015, which represented a \$4,500 decrease over 2014.

On May 19th, 2015, Artspace Board Chair, Patrick Moore, appeared in delegation to Council to appeal the 2015 award. During his presentation (enclosed) and subsequent discussion, he expressed concern that the 30 percent reduction in the 2015 grant could adversely affect their annual applications to other funding bodies like the Canada Council and the Ontario Arts Council. He outlined Artspace's programming and community accomplishments, which culminated in an annual audience of 17,000. He expressed some frustration with the City's process for determining how organizations are moved into the Service Grant Program. As outlined above, Council subsequently agreed to top up the 2015 grant and consider possible reassignment to the Service Grant Program as part of the 2016 budget deliberations.

Community Service Grant Program

The City's Service Grant Program was formalized as a result of Report CSD07-003, dated April 2, 2007, in which Council agreed "to establish Community Service Grant Agreements for all NFP's (Not For Profit organizations) currently receiving City funding through transfers, operating grants, or designated as Municipal Capital Facilities". Council also approved the following recommendation:

Review the role and activities of all NFP's that are eligible for the Community Investment Program or that received Community Grants in the past, during the term of Council, to determine which organizations should be considered for funding through the Community Service Grant Program.

The level of funding for Service Grants is typically \$15,000 and up; not to exceed 25% of the organization's total operating funding. As implied in the title, most organizations in the Service Grant Program provide a specific service that the City would be expected to otherwise provide, but the NFPs can do so more effectively and efficiently.

Organizations cannot apply for entry into this program. Since the base year, the Grant Advisory Committee has identified organizations through the annual Grant Approval process on a case by case basis. Several organizations that have become ineligible for Investment Grants because their funding from senior levels of government has exceeded the 80% threshold have also been moved into this funding program so that they can continue to leverage their federal and provincial support.

Original organizations in the program included: Festival of Lights, Canadian Canoe Museum, PACAC, Showplace, Peterborough Green-up, Community and Race Relations, and Community Care. Subsequently, six organizations have been moved into the Service Grant Program as outlined later in the report.

In Support of the Recommendation

Artspace should be considered for funding through the Service Grant Program for the following reasons:

- Artspace is an artist-run centre that assists emerging visual, performing and media artists with the development and presentation of their work, a service which the City would otherwise be expected to provide.
- Artspace regularly partners with the City in support of City public art initiatives like: Artsweek; the Co-opportunity sculpture in Millennium Park; the Bus Wrap project featuring Jimson Bowler's Big Loon Portage; and more recently, the Hunter Street Bridge graffiti project.
- The City does not have a funding program specific to individual performing, visual, and media artists. Without Artspace, the City will be under increased pressure to develop one.

- To retain the current level of programming in the face of “across the board” funding cuts from the Ontario Arts Council, Artspace needs secure funding to keep its two full-time professional staff positions.
- Artspace is a regional resource for artists across 5 counties and is the only artist-run centre between Toronto, Ottawa, Kingston, and North Bay.
- After 40 years, Artspace is one of the first, longest-running, and arguably one of the most successful artist-run centres in the country, with 17,000 program participants annually.
- Its media lab is an invaluable local resource for media arts production and training, especially for local youth.
- The City’s Municipal Cultural Plan advocates for a strong cultural presence downtown; Artspace is one of the cornerstones in that foundation.

The \$35,000 amount recommended, as requested but phased over two years, is approximately 25% of Artspace’s 2015 operating budget.

Impact on Community Investment Grant Program

The following chart illustrates the history of the Community Investment Grant program since its transition from the City’s longstanding original grant program in 2007.

Col 1 Year	Col 2 Number of Applications	Col 3 Number New Applications	Col 4 Number Approved	Col 5 Number Denied	Col 6 Number Redirected Withdrawn/ not submitted	Col 7 Total Allocation	Col 8 Average Allocation
2007	51	5/10%	38/75%	9/18%	4 /8%	\$205,000	\$5,395
2008	41	0	38/93%	1 /2%	2/ 5%	\$205,000	\$5,395
2009	37	0	35/95%	0	2 /6%	\$205,000	\$5,857
2010	39	0	35/90%	3 /8%	1 /3%	\$205,000	\$5,857
2011	35	1/3%	34/97%	1 /3%	0	\$205,000	\$6,029
2012	40	4/10%	39/97%	1 /3%	0	\$205,000	\$5,395
2013	42	3/7%	40/95%	2/5%	0	\$205,000	\$5,125
2014	40	2/5%	37/92%	1/3%	4	\$210,000	\$5,675
2015	40	4/10%	38/95%	2/5%	4	\$210,000	\$5,526

Base funding for this grant program remained at \$205,000 for several decades until a modest increase was approved in 2014 (Col 7). (The one time “top-up” of \$4,500 granted to Artspace and \$10,500 granted to the Peterborough Chaplaincy earlier this year is not included.)

Since 2007, seven organizations were identified through the Investment Grant review process and then approved by Council to become Service Grant recipients. They include: Peterborough Historical Society/Hutchison House Museum and Kawartha Food Share, 2007; New Canadians Centre, YWCA (one year only) 2008; Market Hall, 2009; and Peterborough Aids Resource Network and Peterborough Native Learning Program,

2014 (Col 6). Each time an organization has been reallocated, the original share of funds that they had received from the Investment Grant Program remained in the program.

Col 6 also shows a number of organizations that have withdrawn at various times. Several organizations have also dissolved including the Peterborough Arts Umbrella (2009); and more recently, Heritage Pavilion Stage (2012). This year, four organizations chose not to apply for funding including: St. James United Church, Autism Ontario, Canadian Diabetes Association, and Peterborough Drug Awareness Coalition. Again, funds that they would have formerly received remained in the program.

While leaving funds previously allocated to grant recipients moving into Service Grants or opting out of the Investment Grant Program has stabilized the program and helped maintain the average level of funding available (Col 8), the demand for funding support continues to increase. Since 2011, fourteen organizations have transitioned through the Project Grants into this program (Col 3). As many as five of the current Project Grant recipients could move into this program in 2016, which would put further stresses on this fund.

Summary

Council approval to move Artspace into the Service Grant Program in 2016 will be a tangible indication of City support of Artspace's programming and its role as in the downtown core. More importantly, it will help offset anticipated provincial cuts from the Ontario Arts Council and ensure the stability of a unique cultural institution.

Submitted by,

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Attachment:

Appendix A: Correspondence from Patrick Moore, Artspace President, May 19th, 2015

Appendix A



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May 19, 2015

Thank you for giving us an opportunity to address council about our concerns regarding the 30% decrease in community investment funding for Artspace this year. The City of Peterborough's support over the years has been invaluable, and as we are sure you are aware, we rely on an array of funding sources to make ends meet.

By most standards, Artspace runs on a shoestring with over 60% of its total expenses going directly to cultural workers, artists and programming expenses. Rent and utilities represent approximately 21% of our expenses – utility expenses have risen significantly in the last 2 years.

It's important to note that Artspace spent approximately \$9000 less in 2014 than in 2013 and earned an additional \$7700 over 2013 in workshops, memberships, rental fees, donations and other revenue. This year we are not eligible for Trillium funding. A funding cut from OAC was not due to viability - in fact we received their highest rating, but is due to cuts across the board.

All residents of Peterborough should rightfully be proud of how their tax dollars have contributed to support this unique and vital cultural centre. Artspace may be small but we serve an incredibly wide demographic and offer programs, services and resources that are not available elsewhere in the region, with over 17,000 users per year. We've been part of the Peterborough cultural landscape as long as the AGP, longer than Public Energy and are important as part of the downtown urban landscape. Artspace continues to be an important part of the tapestry of attractions that make Peterborough the top tourist destination in the region. A diversity of arts organizations is essential for strong art sector in Peterborough, and as such Artspace plays an important role in the ecology of the local arts community.

Programming

- Artspace has a national reputation, e.g. our current exhibit is listed as a Canadian Art Magazine must-see: its artist Dayna Danger and our director Jonathan Lockyer have been asked to be part of a 3 day international academic conference, Contesting Canada's Future, at Trent in May;
- In fact, our last three shows were all noted by Canadian Art as must-sees, including our successful, interactive 40th Anniversary exhibition which invited community participation to express themselves on the gallery walls..
- As a regional hub for contemporary art it is significant due to its central rural location with proximity to Toronto, Ottawa, Montreal;
- It reflects and presents cross-currents of contemporary and experimental art for the regional arts community.

Education

- Artspace offers substantial educational value with frequent workshops on everything from photography/film to lenticular printing to professional development, unavailable anywhere else locally;
- It is a venue for youth-oriented, ground-breaking exhibitions such as Steve deBruyn's *Wood Push Wood*, an installation with a useable skateboard track made of salvaged materials built within the gallery proper, which reached out to empower and inspire local youth culture; or a low tech stop motion animation workshop with Northern Ontario artist Kerri Flannigan;
- Our on-going, school-age outreach workshops centred around photography, film and recently a scanning/animation workshop in coordination with ReFrame was highly successful.

Community resource

- Our mandate for inclusivity makes Artspace a safe haven for LGBT youth and other marginalized sectors;
- Our agility as a venue is unsurpassed, e.g., structural issues forced the AGP to move Dennis Tourbin exhibit; a Trent University business student presented *Madmen on the Otonabee*, an exhibit of furniture from Trent's architect Ron Thom and other renowned international designers; we function frequently as a community music and performance venue; Artspace has facilitated Artsweek and the 2014 city bus wrap project; we presented an off site talk by Shary Boyle, who represented Canada at the Venice Biennale in 2013; we are an ongoing venue for Trent Film Society;
- Artspace has proven its first class training for cultural workers - Iga Janik is now curator at Cambridge Galleries; Fynn Leitch has gone on to be curator at AGP;
- Artspace provides an important stepping stone for emerging artists, many of whom have gone on to international acclaim such as Dorothy Caldwell;
- Artspace is a repository and preserver of 40 years of Peterborough's cultural memory in archives which are available to the public;
- we are an incubator, e.g. Cinepoetry, Media Arts Peterborough initiatives;
- we contribute to arts advocacy through our associations with AARCO, CARFAC, etc.;
- we offer many kinds of resources – our art and archive library which is searchable through the Sadleir House Alternative Library Catalogue; our media lab offers rentals of film and still cameras, projectors, sound equipment, workstations, software and training; as well as the considerable shared knowledge of members;
- Artspace has a history of successful community collaborations with Trent, AGP, City of Peterborough to name a few.
- Artspace works with local business – recently paired with Publican House Brewery to launch the highly successful Publican Rotarian Beer.
- Chaired a community forum during last fall's municipal election – the conversation was broadly centered around arts funding and how to support cultural workers.

Artspace is listed specifically in our Municipal Cultural Plan as one of Peterborough's Cultural Resources - spaces & facilities, and remains relevant for the fulfillment of our Municipal Cultural Plan, particularly in these areas:

- Strategic Direction 4: Strengthen Downtown as a Cultural Hub
- Strategic Direction 6 Encourage Inclusivity and Facilitate Diversity
- Strategic Direction 7 Build the Capacity of the Arts, Culture, and Heritage Division

We would also like council to clarify for us why the potential for a service grant "was discussed at the sub-committee but not the overall committee level and warrants more investigation." Why was this investigation not completed? We have been seeking the service grant level for several years now. Why do we continue to be put off year after year and why do we keep getting passed up?

Artspace may be small but remains a unique and vital part of Peterborough's arts community. We hope council will reconsider its funding cut or find other sources within its budget to continue to show its support for Artspace.

Thank you,

Patrick Moore
On behalf of the Board of Directors, Artspace