

Edmonton Arts Council

2021 Arts Building Operating Grant Recommendations

Recommendation

That Community and Public Services Committee recommend to City Council:

That the 2021 Arts Building Operating Grant recommendations, as set out in Attachment 1 of the August 11, 2021, Edmonton Arts Council report EXT00716, be approved.

Executive Summary

A total of \$419,900 is recommended in funding to support 19 publicly accessible arts facilities.

Under City Policy C211H, the Edmonton Arts Council (EAC) sends recommendations for City Council approval when any one grant award within a program stream is more than \$30,000. Two (2) of the recommended grants exceed this threshold.

These grant recommendations are made in accordance with Policy C211H and are within the Edmonton Arts Council's 2021 Budget as previously approved by City Council.

Report

- Applications were accepted at the Edmonton Arts Council (EAC) up to June 1, 2021.
- Nineteen (19) eligible applications, and one incomplete application, were received.
- In several cases more information or clarity was sought from the applicants.
- A mathematical formula was applied to generate grant recommendations based on the applicant's eligible expenses and eligible space.
- The EAC's Treasurer reviewed the calculations, the EAC's Grants Review and Transition Committee reviewed the outcomes, and the EAC Board accepted the recommendations at their July 2021 meeting.
- As a result of the formula, any one applicant will see fluctuations in grant amounts from year to year that do not reflect any assessment of merits but are linked to real changes in expenses or circumstances.
- As a result of COVID-19, some spaces operated at lower capacity or were closed outright for significant periods of time. A number of these closures resulted in lower expenses, which yielded lower recommended grant amounts.

- These reductions are not universal across the applications - some organizations year end financial statements ended before COVID-19 effects began to be felt, and many facilities had similar ongoing costs year-to-year.
- Every eligible applicant is supported to the maximum possible given the guidelines, but the overall spending in this program is down 2.1%. (2020 actual: \$433,000)
- The Edmonton Arts Council is actively working towards new structures for support of organizations in 2022 and beyond. As a result, 2021 is intended to be the final year for this particular program. The support will transition to new streams that will allow for better assessment of impact and merits, and the potential to consider arts facilities beyond their use for public presentation.

Corporate Outcomes and Performance Management

These recommendations are specifically relevant to the *Connections & Exchanges* plan:

- **Aim:** Diverse platforms for collaboration exist within Edmonton that allow artistic and heritage communities to connect, create and collaborate.
 - o **Action:** Work with arts venues to improve affordability for artists and organizations to support production and presentation.

These recommendations are specifically relevant to the *City Plan* intentions:

- 2.1.1: Ensure that publicly accessible spaces and facilities are designed and maintained for the year-round safety, security and comfort of all users.
- 6.2.1: Promote the integration of art, design and culture into the fabric of the city and its communities.

Corporate Outcome(s):			
Outcome(s)	Measure(s)	Result(s)	Target(s)
Connections & Exchanges Ambition Book 4: A Thriving and Well Funded Arts and Heritage Ecosystem	Number of Organizations is one of the measures in the framework	This report recommends support to 19 Arts Facilities (+1 from 2020)	Not Applicable
Connect Edmonton: Healthy City / Personal Wellness / Arts and Culture	Percentage of Edmontonians who indicate they attended arts or cultural activities	90% City of Edmonton Community Perception Survey (2019)	

Attachment

1. Program summary and recommended grants