



Edmonton Arts Council

Grants and Investments for Organizations 2022

RECOMMENDATION

That Community and Public Services Committee recommend to City Council:

That the funding recommendations, as listed in Attachment 1 of the April 25, 2022, Edmonton Arts Council report EXT01075, be approved.

Report Purpose

Council decision required.

Executive Summary

- The Edmonton Arts Council (EAC) has been working towards the implementation of Connections & Exchanges: A 10-Year Plan to Transform Arts and Heritage in Edmonton as adopted by City Council in 2018. This includes the development of new investment models and processes for organizations.
- This transition was interrupted in 2020 due to public health restrictions and the EAC's responses in support of the community. In early 2021, the EAC's Board through its Grants Review and Transitions (GRT) Committee, returned to the design and development of these programs.
- This report describes the process, decision-making, and outcomes for the EAC's new 2022 support streams for organizations. These are one of the major changes to the EAC's work based on the implementation of the Connections & Exchanges plan.
- The attached recommendations are for funding to not-for-profit arts and festival organizations, in three separate streams of support.
- The three streams together recommend support for 170 Organizations.
- The total funding recommended in the three streams for 2022 is \$9,538,300.
- The recommendations include the Multiyear Operating stream. Commitments for 2023 (\$5,739,150) and for 2024 (\$5,739,150) are recommended in support of 21 Organizations.
- City Policy 211H, requires these recommendations be made to City Council when any one grant award within a program stream is over \$30,000. There are amounts that exceed that level in each of the streams, and this report fulfills that governance step.

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- These recommendations are made in accordance with Policy C211H and are within the EAC's 2022 Budget as previously approved by City Council and the EAC Board.

REPORT

Background

- As part of the implementation of the Connections & Exchanges plan (see CR_6355 from October 2018) new and revised structures are replacing the historical Operating grant programs that the EAC has managed for more than 20 years.
- In late 2019 and early 2020 the EAC Board, through its Grants Review and Transition Committee had plans underway to develop new programs for the support of organizations, as outlined in Connections & Exchanges, specifically in Book 4:
 - Ambition: A Thriving and Well-Funded Arts and Heritage Ecosystem.
 - Aim: New and existing arts and heritage organizational capacity enables innovation and builds resilience in the sector.
 - Action: Build funding mechanisms for arts and festival organizations with an emphasis on: Multi-year operating grants; Annual programming grants (...)
- Following pandemic interruptions, that work recommenced in early 2021. New structures were developed, tested, and revised in extensive consultation with stakeholders.
- Three streams of support were developed for launch in the fall of 2021:
 - Multiyear Operating Investments
 - Annual Operating Investments
 - Annual Programming Grants
- Operating Investments are made in support of a not-for-profit arts or festival organization's work towards its mandate, including activities, planning and governance.
- Programming grants support the relevant activity by a not-for-profit organization, usually that impacts communities and audiences.
- These three streams encompass and replace all the historical, annual support the EAC has managed on behalf of the City of Edmonton for arts organizations, festivals and events, and facilities.
- This streamlines and simplifies the administrative burden for the organizations and the EAC, shifting the focus to understanding.

Process

- Organizations were invited to begin registering with the EAC's new online portal in the fall of 2021.
- Guidelines and deadlines were approved by the EAC Board in October 2021.
- Following the December 15 deadline, EAC staff reviewed and actively followed up with the Organizations as needed.
- 175 Organizations were eligible and had submitted.
- 15 of those submissions were from organizations that were new to the EAC or had not been supported by annual funding in the recent past.

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- Approximately 10 organizations that had been supported in the recent past did not submit.
- EAC staff recruited peer assessors to review the submissions and provide feedback and advice to the EAC.
- 29 assessors participated in this work, representing a wide range of discipline-specific arts and festival knowledge, governance and management expertise, and diverse demographics including cultural and Indigenous heritage, and people with disabilities.
- The work of the assessors generated scoring, ranking, and comments on the various criteria, for each organization.
- EAC staff applied funding frameworks defined in the program guidelines, based on the work and advice of the assessors.
- The funding framework includes factors such as the assessor's scoring of impact, historical changes in support levels, equity and Indigenous participation considerations, and Connections & Exchanges Aims, such as the economic resilience of arts practitioners.
- The process, framework and outcomes were discussed by the EAC's GRT Committee over the course of two meetings, then approved by the EAC Board at their April 13, 2022, meeting.

Outcomes and Recommendations

- The outcomes of this process will allow the EAC to support the capacity of these organizations, which promotes the resilience and innovation in the sector.
- Organizations are recommended into the three specific streams, with funding amounts attached.
- These amounts are based in part on historical levels, with increases recommended to 37 organizations based on the funding framework described above.
- This funding now establishes a baseline to enable recovery of the ecosystem post-COVID.
- One hundred and seventy (170) organizations are recommended for funding
 - 21 Multiyear Operating \$ 5,739,150
 - 90 Annual Operating \$ 3,102,800
 - 59 Programming Grants \$ 696,350
 - **Total 170 Organizations Recommended \$ 9,538,300**
- Those recommendations are listed in the attachments to this report.
- The 21 Multi-year Operating recommendations are all for three years at the same level annually, subject to reasonable reporting and engagement expectations, as well as funds being made available from the City of Edmonton.
- City Policy 211H, requires these recommendations be made to City Council when any one grant award within a program stream is over \$30,000. There are amounts that exceed that level in each of the streams, and this report fulfills that governance step.
- These recommendations are made in accordance with Policy C211H and are within the EAC's 2022 Budget as previously approved by City Council and the EAC Board.

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Measurement, Evaluation and Learning

- The *Connections and Exchanges* plan contains a Measurement, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) framework that is beginning to inform reporting.
- City Council can look forward to an update (report EXT00901) on the implementation of *Connections & Exchanges*, currently scheduled for the May 16th, 2022 CPSC Meeting.
- The EAC is developing its corporate performance measurement system and reporting mechanism to support the implementation of the *Connections and Exchanges* plan. Some measures were extracted as samples to support this report as shown in the table below.

Outcome(s)	Measure(s)	Result(s)	Target(s)
<i>Connections & Exchanges</i> Ambition Book 4: A Thriving and Well Funded Arts and Heritage Ecosystem	Number of Organizations (MEL framework)	This report recommends support to 170 Organizations.	This is a data point towards a new baseline.
<i>Connections & Exchanges</i> Aim: New and existing arts and heritage organizational capacity enables innovation and builds resilience in the sector.	Sample Measures from EAC organizational survey research (2022) This survey will be conducted annually and longitudinally to identify trends, inform strategic planning, and quantify impact.	Funding from the Edmonton Arts Council supported: Your organization's costs with reliable revenue. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 87% Agree / Somewhat Agree Improvements in the quality of organizational programs and operations. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 69% Agree / Somewhat Agree 	This is a new measure, targets to be established when the second iteration of the survey is completed.
Connect Edmonton: Healthy City / Personal Wellness / Arts and Culture	Percentage of Edmontonians who indicate they attended arts or cultural activities. This survey will be conducted annually and longitudinally to identify trends, inform strategic planning, and quantify impact.	City of Edmonton Community Perception Survey (2019) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 90% EAC's public survey research (2022): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 64% Attended at least one live performance in the past 12 Months. • 78% Engaged in any online arts and culture activities in the past 12 months 	N/A Survey reflects COVID impact, targets to be established when the second iteration of the survey is completed.
<i>Connections & Exchanges</i> Aim:	Sample Measure from EAC public survey research	How would you rate the easy access to arts and	This is a new measure.

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Conditions are in place to remove barriers for all Edmontonians to participate in cultural experiences.	(2022). This survey will be conducted annually and longitudinally to identify trends, inform strategic planning, and quantify impact.	cultural events, festivals, activities, and facilities? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 65% of survey respondents answered “very good” or “good” 	Targets to be established when the second iteration of the survey is completed.
City Plan 6.2.1.5 Encourage art and creative enterprise to celebrate Indigenous history and culture		This report recommends increasing support to three Indigenous-led arts and festival enterprises.	N/A

ATTACHMENTS

1. Recommendations - Grants and Investments for Organizations 2022