

POTENTIAL RELAUNCH OF THE AFRICA CENTRE FACILITY PROJECT

RECOMMENDATION

That the November 21, 2022, Community Services report CS01445, be received for information.

Requested Council Action	Information only		
ConnectEdmonton's Guiding Principle	ConnectEdmonton Strategic Goals		
CONNECTED	Healthy City		
City Plan Values	BELONG. LIVE. THRIVE. ACCESS. CREATE.		
City Plan Big City Move(s)	Inclusive and compassionate	Relationship to Council's Strategic Priorities	Community safety and well-being
Corporate Business Plan	Serving Edmontonians		
Council Policy, Program or Project Relationships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wellington School Site Purchase Capital Profile 14-17-1072 Wellington / African Multicultural Centre Capital Profile 15-21-1040 (CP-7316) 		
Related Council Discussions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CS01279, Community and Public Services Committee, August 8, 2022 		

Previous Council/Committee Action

At the August 8, 2022, Community and Public Services Committee meeting, the following motion passed:

That Administration work with the Africa Centre to provide a report to Committee to explore various impacts and implications to consider relaunching the Africa Centre Facility Project, including but not limited to; Business Case development, public engagement, funding strategies with other levels of government and partnerships with other community stakeholders. Any required resources to start this work would be supported through the existing Anti-Racism Strategy or Community Safety and Well-being funds

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allocated to Administration to advance efforts making Edmonton an equitable, inclusive and safe place.

Executive Summary

- Administration has met with the Africa Centre to review previous documentation and project plans for the African Multicultural Centre project and provide Council with further information about the capital project.
- At this time, the project does not have adequate resources to advance. Administration and the Africa Centre have reached a consensus that a full refresh of the project at the Strategy Phase is the best course of action. This would include a new business case and public engagement plan and implementation.
- The new business case would bring the project back up to the Strategy Phase of the Project Development and Delivery Model at pre-Checkpoint #1 and provide clarity on how the project could potentially proceed through Checkpoints #1 to #3. The business case would also determine if this is a Community Led/Community Funded and Operated Facility or a City Funded and Operated project.
- At the time of the writing of this report the additional funding needed to develop the project, including completion of a functional program and design, is undetermined as it is dependent on an updated business case.

REPORT

The August 8, 2022, Community Public Services Committee report (CS01279) provides an in-depth historical and contextual overview of the development and operations of the Council for the Advancement of African Canadians in Alberta, also known as the Africa Centre. Attachment 1 provides historical information about the African Multicultural Centre Capital Project, site location and some of the historical financial contexts as a result of the pandemic impacts.

Current State

As directed by Community and Public Services Committee, Administration met with the Africa Centre to reexamine the previous business case and other historical materials of the African Multicultural Centre project. Many social, economic and political shifts have occurred since the project was approved for the 2019-2022 Capital Budget cycle. It should be noted that the project was started before the approval of the City Policy C591 - Capital Project Governance, and the adoption of the Project Development and Delivery Model (PDDM) in 2017.

Due to many changing conditions that have shifted since the business case was approved in 2017, Administration and the Africa Centre have agreed that a full restart of the project at the Strategy Phase is the best course of action. The project has historically struggled to straddle the line between being either a City Owned and Operated Project or a Community Owned and Operated Project as outlined in the Project Development and Delivery Model. As the project relaunches, a renewed business case would provide role clarity and expectations between the Administration and the Africa Centre.

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The business case and Project Development and Delivery Model will outline the key responsibilities, expectations and deliverables for the requirements of each pathway at each stage of the capital project. However, At this time of the writing of this report, the project does not have adequate funding to advance.

Next Steps

A potential location for the Africa Centre has been identified. A site location study would follow the completion of the business case and the program statement. The Africa Centre has expressed readiness to proceed and indicated potential opportunities to build upon their established partnerships with the federal government.

An updated business case will bring the project back up to the Strategy Phase of the Project Development and Delivery Model, pre-Checkpoint #1, and provide clarity on how the project could potentially proceed into development. Project development could take up to 30 months, depending on the scale of the project.

At the time of the writing of this report, Administration is still exploring options around how to advance the development of the project, including the updating of the previous planning documents such as a functional programme and initial conceptual designs. This will be dependent on the updated business case.

Budget/Financial Implications

Further insights on financial options for the potential re-launch of the African Multicultural Centre Capital project and business case development has been provided to Administration from the Africa Centre directly and can be found in Attachment 2. Key budget considerations include:

- The African Multicultural Centre Capital project has had a history of financial implications as outlined within Attachment 1.
- At the time of the writing of this report a funding source has not been identified to support the work moving forward. There is currently no unfunded service package for this project being brought forward in the 2023-2026 budget deliberations.
- Both the Anti-Racism Strategy Implementation funding as well as the Community Safety and Well-Being funds have been fully allocated in 2022.

COMMUNITY INSIGHT

In previous iterations of the project, the Africa Centre has engaged with many of the African Diaspora communities of Edmonton. The ongoing work of the Africa Centre would place it uniquely in the position to continue to engage with communities on a project such as building a new African Multicultural Centre. No specific community engagement has been done for this report due to time constraints and reflecting on the need to manage community expectations of the timelines of a project with this scope and scale.

The recent Anti-Black Racism Action Plan that was announced on August 28, 2022 may provide opportunities for communities to provide input into this project. Alignments between these two endeavors have not been fully explored at the time of the writing of this report, however Administration will work towards alignments of these projects.

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GBA+

As the scope of the report is to provide Council with an information update, a comprehensive GBA+ analysis has not been conducted by Administration. A GBA+ analysis would be done for any future capital project. The Africa Centre considers itself to be a pan-African organization which serves Edmonton's diverse African communities. It fosters programs that create opportunities for individuals and families of African descent and their communities to participate in civic life. The focus of many of their programs is to influence racial disparity and the availability of social and economic resources.

The Africa Centre, through its four strategic pillars: Cultural Identity, Advancement and Empowerment, Integration and Resource Diversification and Organizational Sustainability, aims to effectively deliver quality programs and services to meet various social change outcomes such as increasing the wellbeing of newcomer and immigrant social determinants of health.

Through the various program offerings from the Africa Centre, the focus is on a spectrum of diverse needs and populations that range from early learning for children, food insecurity for families, mental health with cultural sensitivities, immigrant women's programs, youth leadership and employment for young professionals.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Background and History of Africa Centre Capital Project
2. Africa Centre Insights and Perspectives on the Opportunities of the Capital Project