



Edmonton Arts Council

Grants and Investments for Organizations 2023

RECOMMENDATION

That Community and Public Services Committee recommend to City Council:

That the funding recommendations, as listed in Attachment 1 of the March 20, 2023, Edmonton Arts Council report EXT01780, be approved.

Report Purpose

Council decision required.

Executive Summary

- The Edmonton Arts Council (EAC) has been implementing ***Connections & Exchanges: A 10-Year Plan To Transform Arts and Heritage In Edmonton***, which was approved by City Council in 2018.
- This report describes the process, decision-making, and recommendations for the EAC's 2023 investment programs for organizations. These are a major ongoing outcome of the EAC's work to implement the *Connections & Exchanges* plan.
- The attached recommendations are for investments in not-for-profit arts and festival organizations, in three separate streams of support.
- The three streams together recommend support for 164 Organizations.
- The total recommended in the three program streams for 2023 is \$3,916,125, with details provided in Attachment 1 to this report.

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- The recommendations include Multiyear Operating investments. Commitments of \$167,750 for each of 2023/2024/2025 are recommended, in support of four organizations.
- City Policy C211H, 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 2023 Budget as previously approved by City Council and the EAC Board.

REPORT

Background

- In 2021/2022 as part of the implementation of the ***Connections & Exchanges: A 10-Year Plan To Transform Arts and Heritage In Edmonton***, the EAC consolidated five programs supporting arts and festival organizations into three streams of support:
 - 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 that impacts communities and audiences.

Process

- One hundred and seventy-two (172) organizations submitted applications to the December 1, 2022, deadline, and were deemed eligible.
- Twenty (20) of those submissions were from organizations that had not been supported by annual funding in the recent past.
- EAC staff recruited peer assessors to review the submissions and provide feedback and advice to the EAC. Thirty-two (32) 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.

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- 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, and *Connections & Exchanges* Aims, such as the economic resilience of arts practitioners.
- The outcomes were approved by the EAC Board at their March 8, 2023 meeting.

Outcomes and Recommendations

- The funding outcomes of this process supports the capacity of these organizations, which promotes resilience and innovation in the sector.
- Organizations are recommended into the three program streams, with funding amounts attached.
- One hundred and sixty-four (164) organizations are recommended for funding
 - 4 Multiyear Operating \$ 167,750
 - 110 Annual Operating \$ 3,337,975
 - 50 Annual Programming Grants \$ 410,400
 - **Total 164 Organizations Recommended \$ 3,916,125**
- Those recommendations are listed in Attachment 1 of this report.
- The four Multiyear Operating recommendations are all for three years (2023, 2024, 2025) at the same level annually, subject to reasonable reporting and engagement, as well as funds being made available from the City of Edmonton.
- These recommendations do not include previous multi-year commitments made in 2022. Those organizations provided reports and information, and their 2023 payments were made based on the prior approvals (See April 25, 2022, Edmonton Arts Council report EXT01075, approved at the May 9, 2023, City Council meeting)

Alignment with City Plans

- These investments align with the *City Plan*, *Connections & Exchanges*, and the *Community Safety and Well Being Framework*, amongst others.

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- The *Connections & Exchanges* plan contains a Measurement, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) approach that helps define how those alignments are researched and reported. Some of those measures are relevant to these investment programs.
- City Council can look forward to the regular update on the implementation of *Connections & Exchanges* at a future Meeting, which will include an outline of measures and impacts.
- A sample of relevant alignments and measures is included in the following table.

City Plan / Strategy	Alignment	Output
<p><i>Connections & Exchanges</i></p> <p>Aim: New and existing arts and heritage organizational capacity enables innovation and builds resilience in the sector.</p>	Supporting the organizational capacity of Edmonton arts and festival organizations.	<p>Preliminary results from the 2022 EAC Organizational Survey:</p> <p>Funding from the Edmonton Arts Council supported improvements in the quality of organizational programs and operations (80% agree)</p>
<p><i>Connections & Exchanges</i></p> <p>Aim: Conditions are in place to remove barriers for all Edmontonians to participate in cultural experiences.</p>	Supporting activities that allow Edmontonians to participate in cultural experiences	<p>Most recent figures from 2021 EAC Public Survey:</p> <p>How would you rate the easy access to arts and cultural events, festivals, activities, and facilities?</p> <p>65% of survey respondents answered “very good” or “good”</p>
<p><i>Community Safety and Well-Being</i></p> <p>Pillar: Safe and Inclusive Spaces</p>	Downtown activation and vibrancy.	These investment programs support more than 12 Festival Events that animate outdoor downtown spaces such as Churchill Square, and the operations and programming of arts and cultural facilities in the arts district.
<p><i>City Plan</i></p> <p>1.3.2.1 Celebrate our winter identity through the arts, recreation, events, storytelling and inspired design.</p>	Supporting events and activities that celebrate winter	These investment programs support festival events that are specifically focused on celebrating winter.
<p><i>City Plan</i></p> <p>6.2.1.1 Provide and enable a variety of arts programming and spaces city wide</p>	Enable and support organizations that provide arts programming.	These investments enable a wide range of arts programming at professional and participatory levels, in a variety of disciplines and cultural traditions, in every part of the City.
<p><i>City Plan</i></p> <p>6.2.1.5 Encourage art and creative enterprise to celebrate Indigenous history and culture</p>	Supporting the authentic engagement with Indigenous cultural work.	The review process includes identification and assessment of Indigenous programming, and peer assessors include Indigenous artists.

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Attachment 1

- Recommendations Edmonton Arts Council - 2023 Grants and Investments for Organizations