

Date: 2021-11-01

Subject: **COVID-19 Recovery Fund for Artists Update**

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Report Number: Corporate Support Services-2021-1190

Recommendations:

1. That the report titled **COVID-19 Recovery Fund for Artists Update** to the Committee of Council meeting of November 17, 2021, be received; and
2. That Council approve the additional allocation of \$50,000 to the 2021 program budget for the COVID-19 Recovery Fund for Artists.

Overview:

- On September 8, 2021, Council approved a one-time funding program, COVID-19 Recovery Fund for Brampton-Based Individual Artists.
- The program was funded through a one-time re-allocation of \$50,000 from the 2021 operating budget approved for the Arts, Culture and Creative Industry Development Agency, and a one-time re-allocation of \$50,000 from the 2021 Cultural Services operating budget, for a total budget of \$100,000 for the 2021 program year.
- As October's disbursement expects to allocate nearly 70% of the available program funds, members of the Arts, Culture & Creative Industries Agency Panel discussed the significant need within the local artist community for support.
- At the October 26, 2021 Panel meeting members voted to allocate an additional \$50,000 of their 2021 operating budget to this program, pending Council approval.
- Pending Council approval of this report's recommendation, City staff will proceed with program delivery and return to Council in 2022 with a report on

the outputs, outcomes, and overall impact of this timely and responsive one-time program.

Background:

On September 8, 2021, Council approved a one-time funding program, COVID-19 Recovery Fund for Brampton-Based Individual Artists. The purpose of the program is to provide recovery funds for individual artists to continue, stabilize, adapt, or rebuild their creative practice in response to the challenges resulting from COVID-19.

The program was funded through a one-time re-allocation of \$50,000 from the 2021 operating budget approved for the Arts, Culture and Creative Industry Development Agency, and a one-time re-allocation of \$50,000 from the 2021 Cultural Services operating budget, for a total budget of \$100,000 for the 2021 program year.

Current Situation:

From October 4 to November 1, 2021, City staff received 45 applications from Brampton-based artists seeking recovery funds. This represents a significant increase over the 30 artists total who applied for Relief Funding in 2020.

As October's disbursement expects to allocate nearly 70% of the available program funds, members of the Arts, Culture & Creative Industries Agency Panel discussed the significant need within the local artist community for support. At their October 26, 2021, meeting, the Panel voted to allocate an additional \$50,000 of their 2021 operating budget to this program, pending Council approval.

If approved by Council, the total funding available in the 2021 program will be \$150,000.

Next Steps:

Pending Council approval of this report's recommendation, City staff will proceed with program delivery and return to Council in 2022 with a report on the outputs, outcomes, and overall impact of this timely and responsive one-time program.

Corporate Implications:**Financial Implications:**

Sufficient funding in the amount of \$50,000 is available within the Strategic Communications, Culture and Events 2021 Operating Budget to be re-allocated for this initiative from Arts, Culture and Creative Industry Development Agency. This re-allocation will increase recovery funding by \$50,000, for a total program budget of \$150,000, pending Council approval.

Other Implications:

There are no other implications associated with this report.

Term of Council Priorities:

This report supports the Term of Council Priorities of Brampton is a Well-Run City, Brampton is a City of Opportunities, and Brampton is a Mosaic by effectively managing municipal resources, improving livability and prosperity, and supporting the sustainability of the arts, culture and creative sector.

Culture Master Plan:

This report aligns with the vision and definition of culture in Brampton and the strategic themes of Supporting Success, Developing a Creative Community of Practice, and Building Brampton's Identity.

Conclusion:

This report recommends a responsive approach to supporting the arts sector during the COVID-19 pandemic. Pending Council approval of the recommendations in this report, City staff will proceed with program delivery with the additional budget to be disbursed by year-end 2021.

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