

REPORT

Office of the Chief Administrative Officer

To: Mayor Cote and Members of Council **Date:** July 11, 2022

From: Lisa Spitale **File:**
Chief Administrative Officer

Item #: 2022-531

Subject: Submission to the Department of Canadian Heritage Museum Assistance Program under the Recovery Fund For Heritage Organizations

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council authorize an application for grant funding to the Department of Canadian Heritage for recovery funds to respond to the COVID pandemic; and

THAT the Manager of Museums and Heritage Services be authorized to enter into a funding agreement with the Government of Canada.

PURPOSE

This report is to request Council's resolution to submit a grant application to the Department of Canadian Heritage for recovery funding to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.

BACKGROUND

On June 27, 2022, Canadian Heritage announced details of the new Canada Arts and Culture Recovery Program (CACRP) which continues the Department's targeted support for organizations that are still facing significant financial challenges in the third year of the pandemic. As proposed in Budget 2022, the Government of Canada is investing \$50 million in 2022-2023 to provide additional targeted support measure to compensate Canadian arts, culture, and heritage organizations for revenue losses due to public health restrictions and capacity limits, and the hesitancy of audiences to return to in-person activities due to COVID-19. The Department announced that funding will be

available to those organizations with annual 2019 expenses between \$2,000 and \$1,000,000. The New Westminster Museum and Archives (NWMA) has been successful in its application to the previous two iterations of this recovery program and are positioned to receive up to \$73,161.00 in financial support.

DISCUSSION

The guidelines for this program were released on June 27, 2022 and applications to Program are being accepted until August 2, 2022. In part, eligibility for the Program requires that the applicant:

- be a municipal or university museum with a distinct budget
- manage a heritage collection
- provide public access through regular hours of operation (including on a part-time or seasonal basis)
- have had annual expenses in 2019 between \$2,000 and \$1,000,00

The New Westminster Museum and Archives fulfills the above criteria so it is positioned well to be successful in an application.

Should the submission be successful, the City would be required to enter into funding agreements with the Federal Government Department of Canadian Heritage. These agreements are standard form agreements provided by the Federal Government and include an indemnity and release in favour of the Federal Government. As with any application to senior levels of government, there is no guarantee that the submission will be successful.

In 2020 and 2021 the turnaround on applications to similar federal programs were rapid and managed on a first come first serve bases. Staff are requesting Council authorization to enter into agreement with the Government of Canada as the application deadline arrives while Council is on their summer break.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Department of Canadian Heritage funding will support the City in managing its 2022 budget by offsetting costs that would otherwise be borne by the municipality.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

As the Reopening Fund is anticipated to be managed in a similar fashion to last year's, the New Westminster Museums and Archives operations would be eligible to receive \$73,161.

OPTIONS

The following options are presented for Council's consideration:

1. **THAT** Council authorize an application for grant funding to the Department of Canadian Heritage for recovery funds to respond to the COVID pandemic; and
2. **THAT** the Manager of Museums and Heritage Services be authorized to enter into a funding agreement with the Government of Canada.
3. That Council provide other direction to staff.

Staff recommend Options 1 and 2.

INTERDEPARTMENTAL LIAISON

Interdepartmental liaison to date has included coordination with the Finance Department, Legislative Services and Intergovernmental & Community Relations.

CONCLUSION

City staff is requesting approval to submit an application to the Museums Assistance Program administered by the Federal Department of Canadian Heritage. If approved, the Federal Government could contribute 8% of the New Westminster Museums and Archives 2019 expenses amounting to \$73,161 to aid in its COVID recovery measures. A Council resolution is required in support of the grant application.

APPROVALS

This report was prepared by:
Rob McCullough, Manager of Museums and Heritage Services

This report was approved by:
Lisa Spitale, Chief Administrative Officer