

REPORT

Office of the Chief Administrative Officer

To: Mayor Johnstone and Members of Council
Date: September 25, 2023

From: Lisa Spitale,
Chief Administrative Officer
File:

Item #: 2023-583

Subject: Massey Theatre Working Group

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council approve the Terms of Reference for the Massey Theatre Working Group as outlined in this report; and

THAT Council appoint two (2) Councillors to serve on the Massey Theatre Working Group.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to obtain Council's approval of the Terms of Reference for the Massey Theatre Working Group, and confirm two (2) Council appointments to serve as Working Group members.

BACKGROUND

In 2021, following the land transfer of the Massey Theatre and Complex from the School District to the City, a long-term Lease and Working Agreement was signed between the City of New Westminster and the Massey Theatre Society (MTS) to operate the facility.

The Lease and Working Agreement outlined clear responsibilities for the City and MTS in regards to the operations and affirmed the City's and Society's commitment to collaborate through shared investment over the term of the Agreement to achieve the following goals:

- To improve and sustain the physical asset and its specialized functions for the use and enjoyment of all citizens of New Westminster;
- To support the advancement of the arts and cultural sector in the City and region;
- To activate and develop the facility to its fullest potential artistically, culturally and socially.

Section 36 of the Lease and Working Agreement included provisions to establish a “Theatre Working Group” comprised of City and Society representatives, brought together as needed to resolve conflict, review major decisions and to negotiate adjustments/revisions to the Schedules associated with the phasing and key milestones in the life of the Lease and Working Agreement.

DISCUSSION

Following recent discussions between the City and MTS there was a mutual decision to activate and formalize the Massey Theatre Working Group to support the ongoing operations and planning for this major Civic cultural asset. The intention is to establish an ongoing advisory body to support collaboration and coordination between the parties as operational processes are established and the phased renovation is developed and implemented.

In collaboration with MTS, a draft Terms of Reference has been prepared for Council’s review and approval (Attachment A) building upon the following parameters:

- An equal number of Council Members and MTS Board Members will actively participate;
- City staff from Cultural Services and Engineering Services will be included to ensure that both the cultural vision and asset management needs from an operational and long-range planning perspective are considered and represented;
- An initial meeting will be scheduled in October 2023 and an ongoing meeting schedule will be established by the Working Group members;
- Working Group members will develop a clear consensus-based process and establish defined decision-making criteria to support and inform the actions of the Working Group in their Advisory capacity;
- The Working Group will serve as an advisory to the Civic capital renewal team, art services and major project teams in relation to facility operations, maintenance, renewal and shared investment for the Massey Theatre and Complex;
- The Working Group will advise, communicate with and report to Council and the MTS Board as required.

OPTIONS

There are three (3) options for Council's consideration:

Option 1: Approve the Terms of Reference for the Massey Theatre Working Group;

Option 2: Appoint two (2) Council members to serve on the Working Group;

Option 3: Provide staff with alternate direction.

Staff recommend Options 1 and 2.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 - Massey Theatre Working Group Draft Terms of Reference.

APPROVALS

This report was prepared by:

Todd Ayotte, Manager, Community Arts and Theatre

This report was reviewed by:

Lisa Leblanc, Director, Engineering Services

Peter DeJong, Corporate Officer

This report was approved by:

Lisa Spitale, Chief Administrative Officer