

MANAGEMENT REPORT

Date: July 16, 2024
To: Finance and Labour Relations Sub-committee
From: Karmen Krueger, CPA, CA, Director of Corporate Services
Report Number: FIN24-023
Attachments: Playmakers! Theatre School Appeal Request

Title: 2024 Community Grant Appeal Request

Objective: To consider an appeal of Council's decision regarding a 2024 community grant for Playmakers! Theatre School.

Background: Council approved 2024 community grant awards to various organizations on June 3, 2024. Payments have been issued to all recipients.

Each organization was advised of Council's decision and given the opportunity to have the decision reconsidered by submitting a formal written appeal to the Finance and Labour Relations Sub-committee. Each group was also given the option of participating in the meeting as a delegation.

Organizations were asked to provide additional or new information in their appeal request not previously provided or considered in their original application. They were also asked to clearly outline their justification for the increased request and explain how it fits within the City's Community Grants Policy.

Analysis: One organization, Playmakers! Theatre School, has submitted an appeal request and it is attached to this report.

| Organization | 2024 Request | 2024 Approved | 2024 Appeal | 2023 Request | 2023 Approved |
|----------------------------|--------------|---------------|--|--------------|---------------|
| Playmakers! Theatre School | \$15,000 | \$1,000 | Requesting 2024 grant be increased to \$8,000 and \$10,000 | \$5,000 | \$1,000 |

Through its deliberations, the Community Grants Evaluation Committee recommended maintaining Playmakers! at its 2023 grant level of \$1,000, and Council supported this recommendation.

The Committee considered various factors when evaluating the Playmakers! application, such as its ability to increase its revenue by fundraising, charging admission fees and applying for government grants. The committee felt that the large increase being requested was not justified within the application, and the expansion of this worthwhile program would be better accomplished through the various sources of revenue that the organization has available to them, rather than City taxpayers.

Playmakers! has indicated that they would like the City to reconsider its decision and increase their 2024 community grant. They are requesting an amount they feel is comparable to other community celebrations, being \$8,000 to \$10,000 per year.

A representative from Playmakers! will be present at the meeting to review the request.

Financial Implications:

Financial impact to current year operating budget:

Should the appeal be granted, funding for any additional amounts awarded to Playmakers! would come from the Community Grant reserve, which currently has a sufficient unassigned balance that could accommodate the request. Approving this request would not have an impact on the 2024 approved budget.

Financial impact on future year operating budget:

Funding for Community Grants is awarded as part of the City's annual budget process. There is no budget impact for future years related to this appeal request, as it only impacts the 2024 budget year.

Alignment with Strategic Priorities:

Strengthening our Plans, Strategies and Partnerships

Partnering with the community to make plans for our collective priorities in arts, culture, heritage and more. Communicating clearly with the public around our plans and activities.

Alignment with One Planet Principles:

Health and Happiness

Encouraging active, social, meaningful lives to promote good health and wellbeing.

Equity and Local Economy

Creating safe, equitable places to live and work which support local prosperity and international fair trade.

Culture and Community

Nurturing local identity and heritage, empowering communities and promoting a culture of sustainable living.

Staff Recommendation: THAT the appeal of Council's decision regarding the 2024 community grant award to Playmakers! Theatre School be received and considered.

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| Prepared by: | Karmen Krueger, CPA, CA, Director of Corporate Services/Treasurer |
| Recommended by: | Karmen Krueger, CPA, CA, Director of Corporate Services/Treasurer Joan Thomson, Chief Administrative Officer |