



CITY OF
ST. CATHARINES

Corporate Report

Report from Recreation & Community Services, Programs and Cultural Services

Date of Report: November 12, 2012 **Date of Meeting:** November 26, 2012

Report Number: RCS-652-2012 **File:** 35.60.74, 35.49.99

Subject: Recommendations for Funding through Cultural Investment Program

Recommendation

That Council approve the recommendations for the 2012 annual investment through the St. Catharines Cultural Investment Program; and

That Staff be directed to make the necessary notifications. FORTHWITH

Summary

This report is an overview of the Culture Committee's recommendations as they relate to the annual investment through the St. Catharines Cultural Investment Program (SCCIP). SCCIP has played a significant role in developing the local cultural sector, and continues to be an integral strategy in shaping readiness of the arts community for the future St. Catharines Performing Arts Centre.

Background

City Council approved the St. Catharines Cultural Investment Policy on February 16, 2004. The St. Catharines Cultural Investment Policy (SCCIP) "is designed to strengthen, build, and invest in the cultural community of the city in order to improve the spirit and quality of life for residents of St. Catharines." With a City staff liaison the policy is implemented through the St. Catharines Cultural Investment Program.

The total budget for 2012 is \$155,769. \$150,000 is included in the 2012 Recreation and Community Services budget from the Civic Project Fund and \$5,769 is from previously approved projects that were not completed.

A total of 25 applications were received by the August 31, 2012 deadline. The total amount requested through the three program streams was \$179,500. These streams are:

1. The Sustaining Program
2. The Cultural Development Program, and
3. The Culture Builds Community Program

Four additional investments were pre-approved by Council in 2011 as part of multi-year commitments through the Sustaining Program, as follows:

Organization	2012 Investment	2013 Investment
Chorus Niagara	\$ 8,000	
Essential Collective Theatre	\$10,000	
Niagara Artists Centre	\$23,500	
Primavera Concerts	\$ 4,000	\$4,500
Total pre-approved commitment for 2012	\$45,500	

Multi-year funding is approved by Council in principle, until budget is approved and the organization has submitted an interim report. Staff are recommending that the 2012 funds for the above organizations be released on a satisfactory review of these interim reports.

Report

The SCCIP Selection Committee is a sub-committee of the Culture Committee. Members reviewed the applications utilizing the evaluation criteria approved by Council in the St. Catharines Cultural Investment Policy. Their recommendations have been reviewed and approved by the Culture Committee and are presented below. Staff support the recommendations provided.

Funding for future years is approved in principle only, pending budget approval for that year.

Applicant	Request Amount	SCCIP Selection Committee Recommended Amount
Sustaining Program		
Carousel Players	\$26,000	\$22,800
Gallery Players of Niagara	6,000	5,225
Niagara Dance Company	10,000	7,125
Niagara Symphony Association	25,000	21,375
Suitcase in Point	25,000 for 3 years	17,100 in 2012 20,000 in 2013 20,000 in 2014
Sustaining Subtotal	\$92,000	\$73,625 (2012)

Applicant	Request Amount	SCCIP Selection Committee Recommended Amount
Cultural Development Program		
African Association of Niagara	3,200	1,000
Brock Film Group Productions	735	0
CRAM Gallery	7,000	4,000
Essential Collective Theatre	2,500	2,000
Flutes En Route!	3,000	1,500
Greenbelt Arts Collective	3,000	2,000
Next Company Theatre	6,000	2,500
Niagara Artists' Centre	10,000	0
Niagara Youth Orchestra	3,500	0
Primavera Concerts	2,900	0
Quest / Gallery 145	3,000	0
St. Catharines Art Association	4,500	2,000
St. Catharines Chamber Music Society	6,000	4,000
Cultural Development Subtotal	\$55,335	\$19,000
Culture Builds Community Program		
Carousel Players	5,000	3,000
Next Company Theatre	1,500	1,150
Niagara Vegfest	3,000	2,000
Pride Niagara	8,650	4,000
The Raft / Harvest Festival	3,000	2,000
Sheatre	4,015	2,000
YWCA Niagara	7,000	3,500
Culture Builds Community Subtotal	\$32,165	\$17,650
Summary of Recommendations		
2012 Budget	\$155,769	
Sustaining Program 2012	73,625	
Cultural Development Program	19,000	
Culture Builds Community Program	17,650	
Subtotal	110,275	
Sustaining Program Pre-approved	45,500	
Total 2012 Investment	\$155,775	

As well the Committee is recommending \$20,000 for 2013 and 2014 each for the Suitcase in Point multi-year Sustaining Program request.

SCCIP Selection Committee comments

The Committee had particular observations on each of the three programs and their applicants this year:

1. The new SCCIP program stream, Culture Builds Community, was well-received in its first year, with 7 applications that address a diversity of locally-based themes and neighbourhoods including projects that serve: youth, the Queenston St. neighbourhood, the local food movement and the Lesbian, Bisexual, Gay and Transgender community. Other projects in this program build community engagement with the Underground Railroad, the experiences of the local Arab community, homelessness and more. The committee felt it was important to support all these projects in the first year of the program.
2. Applicants to the Cultural Development Program received less per applicant than in previous years. In 2011 the average amount invested through this program was \$3,437.50. In 2012 it is \$2,206.25.
3. The Sustaining Program also saw cutbacks in order to accommodate as many grants to projects as possible. Every applicant to the Sustaining Program is being recommended for 5% less than they received in 2011. This across-the-boards reduction was seen as the fairest way to address the limited funds available. The Committee did note that all Sustaining Program applicants are future users of the St. Catharines Performing Arts Centre, and as such these reductions were not lightly made.

Financial Implications

There are no additional financial implications, as SCCIP funding for 2012 is included in the approved 2012 Recreation and Community Services budget through the Civic Project Fund.

Conclusion

SCCIP continues to be an important program for cultivating arts and cultural activity in the community, and growing the capacity of the arts sector. A total of 24 projects and organizations will receive investment in the 2012 program.

Notification

Recreation and Community Services staff will contact all applicants to inform them of Council's decisions with regard to the Cultural Investment Program.

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