Festival du Voyageur

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September 26, 2014

John Kiernan
Manager Urban Design
Standing Policy Committee on Downtown Development, Heritage and Riverbanks
15-30 Fort St.
Winnipeg, MB R3C 4X5

SUBJECT: Funding for the River Trail 2015

Mr. Kiernan,

Planning for the 2015 edition of the Red River Mutual Trail is well under way and Le Festival du Voyageur would like to submit our request for funding for the 2015 River Trail.

The goals set out by the River Trail – to encourage active living and participation in winter activities – were met with great success this past year. Created for all Winnipeggers and visitors to enjoy, this community event helps build a winter playground unique to our area. The River Trail is helping put Winnipeg on the map in winter as it continues to gain in popularity and grow its international reputation due to distinctive projects like the Art and Architecture Warming Huts Competition that attracts architectural firms from around the globe and most recently a Fashion Show on the ice which we hope to grow local, nationally and internationally.

In 2014 people enjoying the River Trail were treated to a unique new Festival du Voyageur trading post called ***Rendez-Vous on Ice*** over the Louis Riel long weekend. Skaters, and passers-by of all ages warmed up by one of the many first pits and enjoyed top-notch local entertainment, warm and delicious French Canadian food as well as a bar. Dance parties broke out at random as people kept their bodies moving and enjoyed the welcoming atmosphere of the trading post. We also organized the first ever outdoor winter fashion show called ***Fashion on Ice*** where 12 local designers' unique winter attire was on display – the show was a big hit! As always, there were numerous free family activities to keep the youngsters entertained with our ***Family Fun day*** on Louis Riel Monday. Our team is already hard at work planning the programming for next year's River Trail which is sure to build on the unique offerings from last year.

The City of Winnipeg has been a long-time supporter of this initiative and for that, we are truly thankful. In the past several years, the City has generously contributed $40,000 and we hope the city is able to maintain this level of commitment for the upcoming edition of the River Trail. This year marks the 46th edition of the Festival du Voyageur and we wish to deliver unique and innovative programming on the River Trail yet again and the city's support in invaluable in helping us achieve that.

In the past, the City has been able to accommodate the Festival by advancing the funds in early January so we can respect our contractual obligations associated with creating the River Trail. We are hoping that we can count on the advanced funding again.

Should you require additional information or have any questions, feel free to contact me at 237-7692 ext 236 or on cell at 962-7766.

Sincerely,

Ginette Lavack Walters
Executive Director

CC Daniel Vandal, St-Boniface Councillor

Winnipeg

RIVERBANK MANAGEMENT GRANT APPLICATION

1. Organization:	Name: **FESTIVAL DU VOYAGEUR INC.**	
	Payee (if different than above):	
	Address: 233 Provencher Blvd. Winnipeg (MB)	
	Postal Code: R2H 0G4	Phone No. (204) 237-7692
2. Contact Person with whom the City can communicate:	Name: Ginette Lavack Walters, Executive Director	
	Address/Phone No.: 233 Provencher Blvd. (204) 258-2550	
3. Total Grant Requested:	$40,000	
4. Project Schedule:	River Trail – January 2nd to March 1st, 2015 – 46th Festival du Voyageur	
5. Amount received in prior year:	$40,000 annually since over 20 years	

6. Organization's purpose:
The Festival du Voyageur inc. was founded in 1969 by entrepreneurs that wanted to create an event that would celebrate the French-Canadian *joie de vivre.* Its mission is to *Be a beacon of our francophonie and joie de vivre throughout the year by creating artistic, educational, historical and cultural experiences inspired by the voyageur era.* The Festival du Voyageur corporation's mission is brought to life through our annual 10-day winter festival, programming on the River Trail as well as through our year-round operation of Fort Gibraltar.

7. Name and description of project for which funds are requested:

The River Trail is a true partnership between the Festival du Voyageur and The Forks. Every year, these two organizations work together to create a winter gem to increase the opportunity of winter, outdoor, activities through the Assiniboine and Red Rivers. The River Trail is also a great way to link together several different communities through the magic of ice and winter!

This initiative has become a winter tradition in Winnipeg and has evolved immensely in the last five years. More and more community groups, private enterprises and other organizations taking part bringing their unique event or programming to the trail making it come alive. In addition to programming provided by the Festival du Voyageur, the number of third party events held on the river trail makes it a happening place where people can come by to see the action or take part in numerous events taking place.

The impact of the River Trail has been significant, both from a public awareness perspective and in terms of its contribution to a healthy winter recreational lifestyle. The River Trail features warming huts, skating rinks in the Historic Port, curling sheets and weekend programming provided by Festival du Voyageur. This initiative allows Winnipeggers to enjoy our rivers, even in the winter time.

The funds that are requested will be used to provide free programming for families as well as programming with a definite Festival flavor on the opening weekend of our annual festival including a trading post on the river with local entertainment and a fashion show on ice with local designers.

8. Indicate if other sources of funding have been received from the City of Winnipeg for this or other projects and/or towards the annual operation of the Organization. If so, describe.

No other city financing has been requested for this project. Festival du Voyageur inc. receives an annual operating grant from the Winnipeg Arts Council and also receives some in-kind services for the operations of Festival du Voyageur – the 10-day winter Festival.

9. All other sources of funding:	1. Province of MB ($68,000) – Labour Grant and Other
	2. The Forks ($50,000)
	3.
Date: September 26, 2014	*Signing Officer:*

If applicable attach the following information to the application:		
Business Plan	Financial statements, including statement of expenditures and revenue	Operating budget

Submit completed application to: Riverbank Management Committee Council Building, 510 Main Street Winnipeg, MB R3B 1B9	**City Clerk's Department** **Phone: 986-3856** **Fax: 947-3452** **Email: iskundberg@winnipeg.ca**

GUIDE TO APPLICANTS

In respect to item 7 of the Riverbank Management Grant Application, the following should be included

- the objectives of the project (i.e. what you intend to accomplish with this project).
- how this project will accomplish those objectives.
- how the project supports riverbank management objectives.
- if the completed project requires funding for its annual operating and maintenance costs. explain how the required funding will be provided.
- if possible, provide a site plan and specifications for this project.
- project schedule including cash flow of grant funds.

STANDARD GRANT AWARD CONDITIONS

If approved as a Riverbank Management Grant, the City of Winnipeg will require that the following standard conditions be met:

1. Invoices for eligible costs must be submitted to the satisfaction of the Winnipeg Public Service.

2. The applicant will be required to obtain all necessary permits, licenses and approvals and to comply with any and all applicable codes, regulations and By-laws of the City.

3. Project is to be completed within the schedule stipulated in the Grant application and all invoices are to be submitted to the satisfaction of the City of Winnipeg no later than the date defined by the Riverbank Management Committee in its approval of the Grant.