ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Title: Museums – Special Operating Agency – Stakeholder Consultation

Critical Path: Standing Policy Committee on Protection, Community Services and Parks

AUTHORIZATION

Author	Department Head	CFO	CAO
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Public Service conducted stakeholder engagement will all six civic museums, including Le Musee de Saint-Boniface Museum, Transcona Historical Museum, Seven Oaks House Museum, Ross House Museum, The Historical Museum of St. James – Assiniboia and Grants Old Mill.

The engagement included a survey which was completed by all six museums. In addition to the survey, virtual meetings were held with each individual museum.

Highlights of the stakeholder engagement include:

- The Winnipeg Arts Council (WAC) is not a good option for administering museum funding. Most felt that WAC lacks heritage and museum knowledge and expertise.
- A juried process is not preferred because juries may not be fully aware of context.
- Current funding levels are not sustainable as operating expenses and minimum wages are increasing.
- Support formal agreements and consistency for the use/maintenance of museum buildings.

Responses from the Public Service, as well as the full stakeholder engagement, are included as Appendix 1 in both English and French.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That this report be received as information.

REASON FOR THE REPORT

On December 12, 2019 Council laid over, for up to 180 days, Recommendations 3-7 and 9 of the report and directed the Winnipeg Public Service to consult stakeholders on options and

alternatives and provide a written report back to the Standing Policy Committee on Protection, Community Services and Parks.

IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS

There are no implications as the report is to be received as information.

HISTORY/DISCUSSION

On December 12, 2019 Council laid over, for up to 180 days, Recommendations 3-7 and 9 of the report and directed the Winnipeg Public Service to consult stakeholders on options and alternatives and provide a written report back to the Standing Policy Committee on Protection, Community Services and Parks, namely:

3. That beginning with the 2020 budget, the current annual grant of $764,934 be provided annually to the Winnipeg Arts Council (referred to as Museum Grant Funds), to be taken from the Council approved museum grant funds.

4. That beginning with the 2020 budget, the Museums Grant Funds provided to WAC above, be delivered in the first year to the six museums (Le Musee de Saint-Boniface Museum, Transcona Historical Museum, Seven Oaks House Museum, Ross House Museum, The Historical Museum of St. James – Assiniboia and Grants Old Mill) currently receiving those grants totaling $764,934 in the same annual amounts they have received previously.

5. That beginning with the 2020 budget, the remaining $45,580, previously allocated to the City of Winnipeg Museum's Board for administration, be reallocated to the Winnipeg Arts Council to administer the $764,934.

6. That the Winnipeg Arts Council be directed, in consultation with museums in Winnipeg, to determine through appropriate polices and processes for distribution of the Museum Grant Funds to all qualifying museums in Winnipeg in time for the calendar year 2022, and to administer and distribute those Museum Grant Funds annually thereafter as a transparent, juried process open to all qualifying museums.

7. That the City enter into, execute and deliver a grant agreement with the Winnipeg Arts Council that sets out the terms and conditions of the City's grants as set forth in Recommendations 3 to 6, and that the Chief Financial Officer be authorized to negotiate and approve the terms and conditions of such grant agreement in accordance with this report and such other terms and conditions deemed necessary by the Director of Legal Services and City Solicitor to protect the interests of the City.

9. That the Human Resource Services Department manage the redeployment of one Transcona Museum CUPE Museum Curator employee per the Letter of Understanding between the City of Winnipeg and CUPE – Redeployment."

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Museum, Ross House Museum, The Historical Museum of St. James – Assiniboia and Grants Old Mill.

The engagement included a survey which was completed by all six museums. In addition to the survey, virtual meetings were held with each individual museum.

Highlights of the stakeholder engagement include the following:

- There is an opportunity to re-examine all museums and create a better relationship.
- Multi-year grant agreements would be valuable as that would reduce the paperwork required and provide a level of certainty for museum planning.
- Museums require a clearer breakdown of civic accommodations costs and how they are calculated.
- Support for multi-year budget and having a sense of funding for the next four years.
- No increase in funding to museums is not sustainable. Funding is not sufficient with funding levels remaining consistent. Operating expenses are increasing and minimum wage is increasing
- Museums have the perspective that they are part of the City, rather than an external entity.
- The City needs to recognize that museums are historical assets and not burdens.
- The Winnipeg Arts Council is not a good option for administering museum funding. Issue is that WAC lacks heritage and museum knowledge and expertise.
- Museum grants should remain under the control of the City, possibly with a dedicated position for museum support and contact (Plan B included control within Libraries). Another option was someone with heritage knowledge, such as within Planning, Property and Development. Use $45,000 from the Museums Board to contribute towards a dedicated staff person.
- There could be ways to share resources among museums.
- A juried process is not preferred because juries may not be fully aware of context.
- Support for formal agreements and consistency for the use/maintenance of museum buildings. Agreements should include:
    - Who is responsible for routine maintenance
    - Who is responsible for capital projects
- User fees should be applied consistently.
- Museums should be treated in an equitable way that recognizes the individual needs of each. There are major differences between our organization within group of six museums.
- Museums have the same types of technology and social media requirements that are needed by modern organizations but their budget do not reflect increased needs.

Responses from the Public Service, as well as the full stakeholder engagement, are included as Appendix 1 in both English and French.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Financial Impact Statement **Date:** August 26, 2020

Project Name:
Museums – Special Operating Agency – Stakeholder Consultation

COMMENTS:
There are no financial implications associated with the recommendations in this report.

Electronically approved by T. Yanchishyn
Tanis Yanchishyn
Manager of Finance (Campus)
Corporate Finance Department

CONSULTATION

This Report has been prepared in consultation with:

Office of Public Engagement

OURWINNIPEG POLICY ALIGNMENT

N/A

WINNIPEG CLIMATE ACTION PLAN ALIGNMENT

N/A

SUBMITTED BY

Department: Office of the Chief Administrative Officer
Division:
Prepared by: D. Watt
Date: September 8, 2020

Attachments:

Appendix 1 – Stakeholder Engagement