Minutes – Executive Policy Committee – January 21, 2025

REPORTS

Item No. 12 Downtown Arts Capital Fund Grants

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

The Executive Policy Committee concurred in the recommendation of the Winnipeg Public Service and recommended to Council:

1. That the Downtown Arts Capital Fund eligibility criteria, requiring eligible projects to include capital projects of $500,000 or more in cost or capital partnerships of similar scope, for the Manitoba Opera Association Inc. computer system and ticketing technology upgrade project, be waived.

2. That, subject to approval of Recommendation 1, the following Downtown Arts Capital Fund grants be provided by the City:

    A. Up to $25,000 to the Manitoba Opera Association Inc. for the computer system and ticketing technology upgrade project;

    B. Up to $87,500 to the Performing Arts Consortium of Winnipeg, Inc. for the Pantages Playhouse Theatre Capital Renovation Project;

    C. Up to $87,500 to The Royal Winnipeg Ballet for the Campus Modernization and Expansion Plan; and

    D. Up to $300,000 to the Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre Inc. for the Community Safety and Accessibility Project.

3. That, subject to annual budget approval by Council in each of the years from 2025 to 2027, the following additional grants from the Downtown Arts Capital Fund be provided by the City:

    A. Up to an additional $750,000 ($250,000 per annum from 2025 to 2027) to the Performing Arts Consortium of Winnipeg, Inc. for the Pantages Playhouse Renovation Project; and

    B. Up to an additional $750,000 ($250,000 per annum from 2025 to 2027) to The Royal Winnipeg Ballet for the Campus Modernization and Expansion Plan.

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

4. That, subject to approval of Recommendation 2, the City enter into, execute and deliver funding agreements with the Manitoba Opera Association Inc. and Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre Inc., and such other agreements as determined necessary by the Director of Legal Services and City Solicitor to implement the intent of the foregoing.

5. That, subject to approval of Recommendations 2 and 3, the City enter into, execute, and deliver a multi-year funding agreement with each of the Performing Arts Consortium of Winnipeg, Inc. and The Royal Winnipeg Ballet, and such other agreements as determined necessary by the Director of Legal Services and City Solicitor to implement the intent of the foregoing, provided that any funds to be provided by the City pursuant to the multi-year grant agreements will remain subject to annual Council budget approval.

6. That authority be delegated to the Chief Financial Officer to negotiate and approve the terms and conditions of the agreements described in recommendation 4 and 5, in accordance with the terms and conditions set forth herein and such other terms and conditions deemed necessary by the Director of Legal Services and City Solicitor.

7. That the Proper Officers of the City be authorized to do all things necessary to implement the intent of the foregoing.

DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

Moved by Councillor Browaty,

That the recommendation of the Winnipeg Public Service be concurred in and forwarded to Council.

Carried

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Title: Downtown Arts Capital Fund Grants

Critical Path: Executive Policy Committee – Council

AUTHORIZATION

Author	Department Head	CFO	CAO
K. Lezubski	S. Armbruster, Interim CAO	T. Graham	S. Armbruster, Interim CAO

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Downtown Arts Capital Fund, created in the 2024-2027 Multi-Year Budget, provides for $500,000 annual funding for eligible capital projects lead by arts organizations that have 40 years or more of established presence in Downtown Winnipeg.

The grants application process was announced and opened on July 25, 2024. Applications were received until September 30, 2024. A total of seven applications were received for an overall ask of $4,601,576.35 against the total budget of $2,000,000.00 over the four budgeted years ($500,000 each in 2024-2027). The Public Service is recommending the award of partial funding to the following four applicants:

- Manitoba Opera to fund computer system and ticketing technology upgrades, for a total of $25,000 in 2024;
- The Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra and the Performing Arts Consortium of Winnipeg to fund the Pantages Playhouse Theatre Capital Renovation Project, for a total of: $87,500.00 in 2024; and $250,000 each year in 2025, 2026, and 2027;
- The Royal Winnipeg Ballet to fund the Campus Modernization and Expansion Plan, for a total of: $87,500.00 in 2024; and $250,000 each year in 2025, 2026, and 2027;
- The Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre to fund Community Safety and Accessibility Project, for a total of: $300,000.00 in 2024.

Each of the above recommended awards meets the criteria established by Council with the exception of the Manitoba Opera project which meets all criteria except project scope (which is less than $500,000). On the basis that the project will be cost-shared 50-50 with the organization and is uniquely essential for maintaining the operational efficiency of Manitoba Opera, Council approval has been requested to waive this requirement for the Manitoba Opera.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That Council waive the Downtown Arts Capital Fund eligibility criteria requiring eligible projects to include capital projects of $500,000 or more in cost or capital partnerships of similar scope, for the Manitoba Opera Association Inc. computer system and ticketing technology upgrade project.

2. That, subject to approval of Recommendation 1, Council approve the following Downtown Arts Capital Fund grants be provided by the City:

    A. Up to $25,000 to the Manitoba Opera Association Inc. for the computer system and ticketing technology upgrade project;
    B. Up to $87,500 to the Performing Arts Consortium of Winnipeg, Inc. for the Pantages Playhouse Theatre Capital Renovation Project;
    C. Up to $87,500 to The Royal Winnipeg Ballet for the Campus Modernization and Expansion Plan; and
    D. Up to $300,000 to the Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre Inc. for the Community Safety and Accessibility Project.

3. That, subject to annual budget approval by Council in each of the years from 2025 to 2027, Council approve the following additional grants from the Downtown Arts Capital Fund be provided by the City:

    A. Up to an additional $750,000 ($250,000 per annum from 2025 to 2027) to the Performing Arts Consortium of Winnipeg, Inc. for the Pantages Playhouse Renovation Project; and
    B. Up to an additional $750,000 ($250,000 per annum from 2025 to 2027) to The Royal Winnipeg Ballet for the Campus Modernization and Expansion Plan.

4. That, subject to approval of Recommendation 2, the City enter into, execute and deliver funding agreements with the Manitoba Opera Association Inc. and Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre Inc., and such other agreements as determined necessary by the City Solicitor / Director of Legal Services to implement the intent of the foregoing.

5. That, subject to approval of Recommendations 2 and 3, the City enter into, execute, and deliver a multi-year funding agreement with each of the Performing Arts Consortium of Winnipeg, Inc. and The Royal Winnipeg Ballet, and such other agreements as determined necessary by the City Solicitor / Director of Legal Services to implement the intent of the foregoing, provided that any funds to be provided by the City pursuant to the multi-year grant agreements will remain subject to annual Council budget approval.

5. That authority be delegated to the Chief Financial Officer to negotiate and approve the terms and conditions of the agreements described in recommendation 4 and 5, in accordance with the terms and conditions set forth herein and such other terms and conditions deemed necessary by the Director of Legal Services and City Solicitor.

6. That the Proper Officers of the City be authorized to do all things necessary to implement the intent of the foregoing.

REASON FOR THE REPORT

On March 20, 2024, Council concurred in the recommendation of the Executive Policy Committee and adopted the following:

1. That the following recommendations with respect to the 2024 Preliminary Operating Budget be approved by Council:

    QQ. That as a strategic, long-term measure to assist in the recovery of Downtown after the recent Pandemic, under the 2024-2027 Multi-Year Budget a Downtown Arts Capital grant be given to support capital projects by major Downtown arts organizations.

        i. The CAO or his/her designate will make any necessary arrangements to accept and process applications for this grant, and applications for 2024- 2027 will close no later than June 1, 2024.

        ii. Any non-profit arts organization with more than 40 years presence (e.g. offices, galleries, performance seasons, etc.) in Downtown Winnipeg is eligible to apply for assistance for eligible projects, which will include capital projects of $500,000 or more in cost, or capital partnerships of similar scope in which the Downtown arts organization is a significant partner and beneficiary, conditional upon the applicant securing at least 50% funding for the project from another contributor, government or financing source.

        iii. Upon receipt of the applications, the Public Service will recommend expenditures from the grants to Executive Policy Committee for each year in the 2024-2027 Multi-Year Budget Cycle. In anticipation of potential extension of the grants being offered, and/or potential requests for multiyear funding, applications received in 2024 without any grants issued may be formally prioritized for expenditures in future budget years.

        iv. Each grant must ultimately be approved by Council.

IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS

On March 20, 2024, Council approved the 2024 budget which included up to $500,000 in available funding for the Downtown Arts Capital Fund. Available funds for the Downtown Arts Capital Fund in each subsequent year remain subject to annual Council budget approval.

Council approval is required to waive eligibility criteria for the Downtown Arts Capital Fund.

Council approval is required to approve grants from the Downtown Arts Capital Fund and enter into funding agreements with grant recipients.

HISTORY/DISCUSSION

The Downtown Arts Capital Fund, created on March 20, 2024, in the 2024-2027 Multi-Year Budget, provides for $500,000 annual funding for eligible projects lead by arts organizations that have 40 years or more of established presence in Downtown Winnipeg.

Eligible projects include capital projects of $500,000 or more in cost, or capital partnerships of similar scope in which the Downtown arts organization is a significant partner and beneficiary, conditional upon the applicant securing at least 50 percent funding for the project from another contributor, government or financing source.

On July 18, 2024, Council extended the deadline for receipt of applications to the Downtown Arts Capital Fund to September 30, 2024.

The Office of the Chief Administrative Officer collaborated with Customer Service and Communications and the Mayor's Office to announce and open the grants application process on July 25, 2024 (https://www.winnipeg.ca/news/2024-07-25-downtown-arts-capital-fund-now-open-major-downtown-arts-organizations). Applications were received until September 30, 2024. A total of seven applications were received for an overall ask of $4,601,576.35 against the total budget of $2,000,000.00 over the four budgeted years ($500,000 each in 2024-2027).

After review, the Public Service is recommending the award of partial funding to the following four applicants:

- Manitoba Opera to fund computer system and ticketing technology upgrades, for a total of $25,000 in 2024;

- The Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra / Performing Arts Consortium of Winnipeg to fund the Pantages Playhouse Theatre Capital Renovation Project, for a total of: $87,500.00 in 2024; and $250,000 each year in 2025, 2026, and 2027;

- The Royal Winnipeg Ballet to fund the Campus Modernization and Expansion Plan, for a for a total of: $87,500.00 in 2024; and $250,000 each year in 2025, 2026, and 2027;

- The Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre to fund the Community Safety and Accessibility Project, for a total of: $300,000.00 in 2024.

Each of the above recommended awards meets the criteria established by Council with the exception of the Manitoba Opera project, which meets all criteria except project scope (which is less than $500,000). Council approval has been requested to waive this requirement for the Manitoba Opera.

Full details are available in the table below.

Organization & Project	Ask	2024	2025	2026	2027
Manitoba Opera - Computer system and ticketing technology upgrades	$29,819.50 one-time	$25,000.00			
Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra / Performing Arts Consortium of Winnipeg - Pantages Playhouse renovations	$1,500,000.00 over three years	$87,500.00	$250,000.00	$250,000.00	$250,000.00
Royal Winnipeg Ballet – Major retrofit of student residence on Carlton street	$2,000,000.00 over four years	$87,500.00	$250,000.00	$250,000.00	$250,000.00
Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre - Community Safety and Accessibility project	$400,000.00 over two years	$300,000.00			
		$500,000.00	**$500,000.00**	**$500,000.00**	**$500,000.00**

On March 20, 2024, Council approved the 2024 budget which included up to $500,000 in available funding for the Downtown Arts Capital Fund. Any funding to be provided to recipients for budget years between 2025 to 2027 remains subject to annual Council budget approval.

If more funds become available, any further contributions will be based on existing applications and must be approved by Council.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Financial Impact Statement

Date: December 12, 2024

Project Name:

Downtown Arts Capital Grants

First Year of Program **2024**

	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
Capital					
Capital Expenditures Required	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Less: Existing Budgeted Costs	-	-	-	-	-
Additional Capital Budget Required	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Funding Sources:					
Debt - Internal	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Debt - External	-	-	-	-	-
Grants	-	-	-	-	-
Reserves, Equity, Surplus	-	-	-	-	-
Other	-	-	-	-	-
Total Funding	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Total Additional Capital Budget Required	$ -				
Total Additional Debt Required	$ -				
Current Expenditures/Revenues					
Direct Costs	$ 500,000	$ 500,000	$ 500,000	$ 500,000	$ -
Less: Incremental Revenue/Recovery	$ -	-	-	-	-
Net Cost/(Benefit)	$ 500,000	$ 500,000	$ 500,000	$ 500,000	$ -
Less: Existing Budget Amounts	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000	-
Net Budget Adjustment Required	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -

Additional Comments:

Direct Costs represent grant payments to Manitoba Opera, The Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra / Performing Arts Consortium of Winnipeg, The Royal Winnipeg Ballet and The Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre as outlined in the report.

Funding for Downtown Arts Capital Program is included in the 2024-2027 Multi-Year Budget for City Clerk's Department.

Randy Bernard

Randy Bernard, CPA, CMA

Manager of Finance & Administration (Campus)

Corporate Finance Department

CONSULTATION

This Report has been prepared in consultation with:

- Legal Services
- Customer Service & Communications
- Corporate Finance

OURWINNIPEG POLICY ALIGNMENT

Goal: Economic Prosperity

3.6 Downtown Economic Investment
Prioritize the Downtown by leveraging private and public investments, including housing, entrepreneurship, arts, entertainment, and tourism, that advance its status as an economic driver. *HW, CB*

3.8 Culture and Heritage Value
Enhance the economic and cultural value of arts and heritage resources in the community, by promoting awareness, education, viable adaptive re-use, and other effective conservation tools. *LG, CB*

WINNIPEG CLIMATE ACTION PLAN ALIGNMENT

Consideration was given as to whether this report connects to the Winnipeg Climate Action Plan (CAP), and it was determined that the CAP is not applicable to this specific report.

WINNIPEG POVERTY REDUCTION STRATEGY ALIGNMENT

Consideration was given as to whether this report connects to the Winnipeg Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS) and its Goals and Objectives, and it was determined that the PRS is not applicable to this specific report.

SUBMITTED BY

Department: Office of the Chief Administrative Officer
Division: N/A
Prepared by: K. Lezubski
Date: December 12, 2024
File No: N/A

Attachments: N/A