



**SUBJECT: Arts and Culture Funding Program and Cultural Action Plan**

**TO: Planning and Development Committee**

**FROM: Planning and Building Department**

Report Number: PB-58-17

Wards Affected: All

File Numbers: 960-02

Date to Committee: September 5, 2017

Date to Council: September 11, 2017

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**Recommendation:**

Approve the Arts and Culture Funding Program as outlined in planning and building department report PB-58-17; and

Direct the Director of Planning and Building to conclude the Cultural Action Plan Implementation Committee (CAPIC) and to work with the cultural boards in developing a new plan to advance culture in the City and where appropriate implement "An Engaging City" strategic objectives.

**Purpose:**

An Engaging City

- Community Building through Arts and Culture via Community Activities

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**Background and Discussion:**

In November 2011, the development of the Cultural Action Plan (CAP) was approved by Council through PR-51-11, supported by funding of \$52,300 from the City and \$61,550 from the Province through the Creative Communities Prosperity Fund.

Burlington's CAP was originally developed by an external provider (CoBALTS Connects) that was selected through a Request for Proposal (11-37). In March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2013 CoBALTS Connects presented a Directions Forward Report to the Community Services Committee.

In March 2013, the General Manager assumed responsibility for finalizing the CAP recommendation report and chaired the steering committee meetings to include completion of the project as well as ongoing cultural planning, information sharing, and collaboration among senior staff of the City of Burlington and Burlington's cultural boards.

In November 4<sup>th</sup> 2013, the Cultural Action Plan and its 47 action items were unanimously approved by Council.

In January 2015, a working team of City staff, executive directors of the cultural boards and key cultural stakeholders from the cultural community was created. The Cultural Action Plan Implementation Committee's (CAPIC) scope of work was to provide leadership on the implementation of the recommendations of the Cultural Action Plan and was chaired by the General Manager and subsequently by the City Manager. CAPIC's Terms of Reference were endorsed by Council on June 22, 2015 in Report CS-2-15.

## **Strategy/process**

### ***Cultural Action Plan***

Since its creation, CAPIC has been working together with city staff in implementing CAP's recommendations. CAPIC has successfully implemented 80% of the recommendations to date. With the approval of the Arts and Culture Fund, the key elements of the CAP have been completed. 37 out of 47 recommendations in the Cultural Action Plan have been implemented. These items include: the establishment of the arts and culture service owner, realignment of the manager of arts and culture, maintenance of the cultural profile of Burlington and local data, development of new cultural partnerships, celebration of Culture Days, creation and maintenance of cultural mapping, liaison services with the cultural boards, launch of the mural program exclusively for local artists, guidance for the creation of Arts and Culture Council of Burlington (ACCOB), a second FTE dedicated to Culture, development of the Public Art map, provided information for Official Plan, etc.

Staff is currently working on two recommendations as part of their work plan: the review of public art master plan and the implementation of the arts and culture fund program pending Council approval. 8 out of 47 recommendations are not completed. Of the items not completed, it is staff's opinion that the items are not integral to the development of arts and culture in the community. The most significant item not completed that may require attention in the future is recommendation number 37:

"Provide ongoing base budget funding through the City's annual current budget in order to provide an administrative office space within a City of Burlington owned facility for the external organization, including office furnishings and office equipment (not staff)."

It is ACCOB's intention to be the primary organization that engages with the artists and the cultural community. Staff's expectation is that ACCOB will collaborate with staff and our cultural boards to address arts and culture initiatives in the community going forward. Staff will continue to work with the newly formed ACCOB and determine their needs.

With the recent formation of Arts and Culture Council of Burlington (ACCOB) and the successful completion of the most important recommendations of the CAP, it is recommended that CAPIC's terms of reference be concluded. It is now time to look to what the future opportunities are for arts and culture given the strength of the sector and its potential within Burlington. There are different models in different cities. What is clear is that cities and municipalities are key partners in the culture sector. There is work to be done with our agencies, boards, ACCOB and the broader community. This work will start with research and development of potential directions. One model used successfully is the Intercultural Cities program. This program supports cities in developing comprehensive intercultural strategies to help them manage diversity positively and realise the diversity advantage. Together with our arts and culture partners, we will explore other opportunities to advance culture in the community and will report to Council accordingly.

#### Arts and Culture Fund

One of the main recommendations of the CAP is the development of an Arts and Culture Support Fund in conjunction with the community. A committee of professional artists supported by the Manager of Arts and Culture and approved by the Cultural Action Plan Implementation Committee (CAPIC) have worked together to develop an Arts and Culture support program. The committee members: Charles T. Cozens, Leslie Gray, Keith Marshall and Robert Missen have established criteria for the development and implementation of Burlington Arts and Culture Fund. Trevor Copp, Jim Riley and Glen Jones have also provided support and input during the process.

City staff has further consulted with its stakeholders and has prepared a document outlining the proposed program for the Burlington Arts and Culture Fund (BACF). (please see appendix A)

The objective of BACF is to nurture the capacity of the arts and cultural sector in Burlington, while fostering creativity, encouraging social cohesion, enhancing quality of life, and stimulating cultural and economic development through direct investment.

The City of Burlington's Arts and Culture Fund will provide grants to local artists, multicultural groups, and arts and culture organizations to foster creativity and enrich opportunities for Burlington residents to experience and engage with arts and culture. The program will recognize and support diverse identities, perspectives, languages, cultures and artistic practices.

The program will be accessible to all and responsive to the needs identified by the community. The BACF program will be administered by the City of Burlington's Arts and Culture Section. Applications will be reviewed in part by a peer assessed jury for artistic merit.

The BACF will be integrated into the Community Investment Program branding. In this regard, the City will have one branded program for the community to access potential funding opportunities.

Appendix A contains the proposed Burlington Arts and Culture Fund Program that outlines scope, adjudication criteria, procedures, responsibilities, jury process and funding.

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### **Financial Matters:**

Additional funding is not requested to run the program. An annual transfer of \$50,000 from the Cultural Initiatives Reserve Fund to Arts and Culture Operating Budget was approved by Council with the Budget process in 2017. All funds will be used to provide direct program delivery.

### **Source of Funding**

The Arts and Culture Operating Budget.

### **Other Resource Impacts**

Not applicable

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### **Conclusion:**

The City will provide on-going support and encourage the development of a variety of arts and cultural activities adding vibrancy to the community. Participation in these activities will reduce isolation, increase social networks and enhance quality of life. Arts and culture activities will provide a forum for intercultural understanding and friendship and will develop contact between the generations.

By implementing the BACF program the City will develop pride in local traditions and cultures and will help people feel a sense of belonging and involvement. Arts and Culture activities are an effective outreach tool to engage youth and build resilience and self-esteem in young people.

Working closely with the cultural boards will provide impactful and efficient ways of collaboration in delivering and developing new programs and collective goals to advance culture in the City.

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Respectfully submitted,

Angela Papparizo

Manager of Arts and Culture

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**Appendices:**

- a. Burlington Arts and Culture Funding Program

**Report Approval:**

All reports are reviewed and/or approved by Department Director, Director of Finance and Director of Legal. Final approval is by the City Manager.