



Motion Memorandum

SUBJECT: Art Gallery of Burlington – Facility Master Plan and Future Needs Feasibility Study

TO: Corporate Services, Strategy, Risk & Accountability Cttee.

FROM: Councillor Lisa Kearns, Ward 2

Date to Committee: October 4, 2023

Date to Council: October 17, 2023

Motion for Council to Consider:

Direct the City Manager and the Chief Financial Officer to review funding options to assist the Art Gallery of Burlington in their request of \$100,000 towards the one-time cost of a Facility Master Plan and Future Needs Feasibility Study; and

Direct the City Manager and the Chief Financial Officer to report back at the November 1, 2023, Corporate Services, Strategy, Risk & Accountability Committee with funding options, pre-conditions (ie confirmation of matching funding from other levels of government), and recommended funding.

Reason:

The Art Gallery of Burlington (AGB) provides an equitable and inclusive place to create, collaborate and innovate. As a gathering place for experiences, ideas, and conversations, the AGB aspires to make valuable connections.

The AGB delivers thought-provoking exhibitions, educational encounters and public programs that spark opportunities for people to learn, see, think, and make. AGB's onsite and digital learning opportunities support artists, youth, and the broader community in their personal, professional, and artistic development. As a place of creative activity, studios are open to artists and makers at all levels of skill and achievement. Boasting the world's most extensive collection of contemporary Canadian ceramics, the AGB actively engages in the study, preservation, and circulation of clay practice.

Facility Master Plan and Future Needs Feasibility Study

The AGB commits to engaging a consultant to facilitate a Facility Master Plan and Future Needs Feasibility Study between March 2024 - March 2025.

The Facility Master Plan and Future Needs Feasibility Study is the first step in a multi-year process to transform the AGB. The study will consider two scenarios: renovating the current space which may involve expanding AGB's footprint or building a new building.

The AGB facility is reaching the end of its life and needs replacing. The building structure and layout was purpose-built as a community center and underwent many renovations to become a public art gallery.

The AGB is committed to modernizing its facilities to better serve its audience and become a more relevant cultural destination for Burlington. AGB will conduct a comprehensive feasibility study and visioning process in consultation with the City of Burlington and stakeholders. The consultants will explore various options for addressing challenges related to institutional and community goals to meet the long-term needs of artists, community members, and stakeholders.

The study will serve as a roadmap outlining short, medium, and long-term strategies to align with existing or future buildings with AGB's evolving vision.

The anticipated cost of the study is \$250,000 and the AGB will be asking the City of Burlington for 40% (\$100,000). Matching funds will be sought from Canadian Heritage - Cultural Spaces Canada. The balance of the proposed funding (\$50,000) will be obtained from other sources.

Key components of the study:

- **Identify Future Needs:** Determine the anticipated future needs of the organization and facility, taking into account growth projections for programs, attendance, and revenue, as well as relationship changes, changing technologies, sectoral trends, and community needs.
- **Develop Strategies and Priorities:** Propose strategies to bridge the gap between current and future facility needs, considering renovation/expansion of existing space or relocation/new building.
- **Stakeholder Engagement:** Incorporate a stakeholder engagement plan to involve key stakeholders throughout the planning process to ensure buy-in, inclusivity, and alignment of diverse perspectives.
- **Environmental Sustainability:** Consider sustainable practices such as energy-efficient design, waste reduction, water conservation, and environmentally friendly materials when creating the facility master plan.

- Equity, Diversity, Inclusion & Accessibility: When providing consultation and recommendations, prioritize EDI principles and accessibility as integral components.

Financial Implications:

Funding for the AGB is derived from private, public, and earned revenues sources. Private sector fundraising 10%, Public sector 58% (Federal 4%, Provincial 13%, and Municipal 43%) and Earned Revenue 32%. The AGB is strategically working to increase returns in all Earned Revenue areas.

Outcome Sought:

That staff report back on one-time funding options to assist the Art Gallery of Burlington in their request of \$100,000 towards the cost of a Facility Master Plan and Future Needs Feasibility Study.

Vision to Focus Alignment:

- ☒ Increase economic prosperity and community responsive city growth
- ☐ Improve integrated city mobility
- ☒ Support sustainable infrastructure and a resilient environment
- ☒ Building more citizen engagement, community health and culture
- ☒ Deliver customer centric services with a focus on efficiency and technology transformation

Motion Seconded by: *as required*

Share with Senior Staff ☐

Approved as per form by the City Clerk,

Reviewed by the City Manager - In accordance with the Code of Good Governance, Council-Staff Relations Policy and an assessment of the internal capacity within the City to complete the work based on a specific target date (quarter/year).

Comments:

City Clerk: none

City Manager: none