



Committee of the Whole Report For the Meeting of March 18, 2021

To: Committee of the Whole **Date:** March 2, 2021
From: Kerri Moore, Head of Business and Community Relations
Subject: Arts and Culture Grant Policy

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive this report for information.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

At the January 28, 2021 Committee of the Whole meeting, Council requested staff report back on current information on existing Arts and Culture grant policies. Currently staff manage one grant program under arts and culture, the Festival Investment Grant (FIG) which does have approved Council policy to guide decision making. The Everyday Creativity grant was a one-off program to respond to the COVID 19 pandemic and is no longer a current grant program in operation.

The existing grant policy for both the Everyday Creativity Grant program and Festival Investment Grant program provides guidance to Council and staff on such areas of funding policy including eligible and ineligible expenses, evaluation criteria, conditions of assistance and reporting guidelines.

Based on the review of both arts and culture grant programs and existing policies that guide funding decisions for other City grant programs, staff were unable to find policy that related to the discussion at Council on January 28th regarding political messaging. In the spirit of the discussion at Council and to provide a response to address this matter, staff have offered an analysis for Council consideration based on existing principles and policy that provide parameters for managing public space.

An existing policy within the *Public Use of City Hall* may provide some guidance to Council on this matter. The policy states "The event must be non-commercial, and the requesting organization must be one whose mandate and activities will not discriminate against any individual or group as outlined in the BC Human Rights Code." Further it states that "Any use of public space must comply and be consistent with federal and provincial legislation and any applicable City bylaws, plans or agreements." Additionally a revised Letter of Agreement for City funded mural and community art projects provides additional terms and conditions to guide staff and Council on these matters and provides a process for the City to review alterations and changes to proposed project prior to implementation.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide further information to Council regarding arts and culture grant programs and associated policies.

BACKGROUND

At the February 4, 2021 Council meeting, Council ratified a Committee of the Whole recommendation from January 28th after consideration of the 2020 My Great Neighbourhood Grant Summary directing staff *“to return to Council with current information on existing Arts and Culture grant policies.”*

Since 1999, Festival Investment Grant program has provided funding for arts and cultural festivals. Council last approved the policy in 2011 which is attached to this report as Appendix A for reference. The Everyday Creativity Grant is no longer a grant program being offered, however, for Council’s reference the guidelines are attached as Appendix B.

The existing grant policy for both the Everyday Creativity Grant program and Festival Investment Grant program provides guidance to Council and staff on such areas of funding policy including eligible and ineligible expenses, evaluation criteria, conditions of assistance and reporting guidelines.

ISSUES & ANALYSIS

The guidelines and policies that guide arts and culture grant funding do not address the discussion at Committee of the Whole on January 28, 2021 regarding political messages for publicly funded projects. Within the terms and conditions of grant funding applicants must “notify in writing of any significant changes to the funded event scale or purpose.”

To support Council in this matter, staff reviewed policy outside of arts and culture grant program, to inform Council of existing policy and bylaws that guide the use of public space. Within the *Guiding Principles for the Use of Public Space* policy, there is no direction or principle that guides staff or Council in this matter.

An existing policy could provide some guidance for Council which is provided within the *Public Use of City Hall*. The policy states “The event must be non-commercial, and the requesting organization must be one whose mandate and activities will not discriminate against any individual or group as outlined in the BC Human Rights Code.” Further it states that “Any use of public space must comply and be consistent with federal and provincial legislation and any applicable City bylaws, plans or agreements.”

Temporary murals funded through the My Great Neighbourhood Project and Everyday Creativity provides further direction to applicants prior to project initiation. A letter of agreement is signed with the applicant to guide roles and responsibilities including ongoing maintenance, proper permits, health, safety, and insurance requirements as well as decommissioning process. As provided in the January 28, 2021 Committee of the Whole report for the My Great Neighbourhood program, staff provided the following information to Council:

Community murals are subject to the guidelines provided through the City's Arts Policy. Once the original design has been submitted and signed off from the City and artist, major alterations or additions will not be allowed. Refusal to comply may require removal of the mural by the City.

In addition,

- I. Profanity, hateful language and any other words and/or images that are likely to be perceived by the general public as offensive will not be permitted.*
- II. Any language or images that convey or portray drug and/or alcohol use will not be permitted.*
- III. Explicit or encrypted signatures or acronyms will not be permitted.*

Based on the above analysis, the existing policy for the *Public Use of City Hall* and the Letter of Agreement between the City and grant applicant is sufficient to ensure the City has a process in place to address future issues in regard to the discussion raised at Council on January 28, 2021.

IMPACTS

Accessibility Impact Statement

No impacts to accessibility contained within this report.

2019 – 2022 Strategic Plan

Nurturing and supporting arts, culture and creativity has been identified by Council as an operational priority.

Impacts to Financial Plan

No impacts to the 2021 Financial Plan

Official Community Plan Consistency Statement

Section 16: Arts and Culture

- 16.6 Encourage broad access to arts and culture facilities, events and activities for people of all ages, incomes, backgrounds and lifestyles.
- 16.7 Encourage education, training and informal learning opportunities in the arts, design and culture.
- 16.19 Establish and maintain partnerships with professional artists and arts and cultural organizations to program the use of public space.
- 16.20 Continue to permit festivals, celebrations and special events in public spaces, such as streets, parking lots, plazas, civic squares and other open space.
- 16.21 Increase the use of parks for festivals, celebrations and special events.
- 16.22 Continue to support and enable local, non-profit groups to host festivals, celebrations and special events through services, incentives and regulations.

CONCLUSIONS

The following review of existing policy and guidelines is provided to support Council discussion regarding proposed policy changes.

Respectfully submitted,

Nichola Reddington
Senior Cultural Planner

Kerri Moore
Head of Business and Community Relations

Report accepted and recommended by the City Manager.

List of Attachments

Appendix A – Festival Investment Grant Policy (2011)
Appendix B – Everyday Creativity Grant Guidelines