

THE MUNICIPALITY OF LAMBTON SHORES

Report DCS 01-2024

Council Meeting Date: January 16, 2024

TO: Mayor Cook and Members of Council
FROM: Ashley Farr, Director of Community Services
RE: Grand Bend Art Centre - Paint Ontario Large Vibrancy Request

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Report DCS 01-2024 regarding the “Grand Bend Art Centre - Paint Ontario Large Vibrancy Request” be received.

*Council direction is required on the application

SUMMARY

This report provides Council with information regarding the Vibrancy Request received from the Grand Bend Art Centre for the Paint Ontario Show and Sale and seeks Council direction on a funding decision.

BACKGROUND

At the December 19, 2023 meeting Council heard a presentation from the Grand Bend Art Centre requesting funds through the Community Vibrancy Fund – Large Projects grant program for the annual Paint Ontario Show and Sale. Funds are requested to create a modular display of lighting and wall systems that will be used to display art for the annual show. Previously, the show was held at the Lambton Heritage Museum but because of recent renovations to the space, the show organizers are now looking for a new home for the event.

The creation of modular lighting and wall systems will provide the event with the flexibility to move locations if needed in the future. Paint Ontario is the main funding source for the Grand Bend Art Centre. A copy of the presentation and the funding application is attached for Council review.

The eligibility requirements for funding through the Vibrancy Fund – Large Projects includes:

- Aligns with one or more of Council’s Strategic Priorities.
- Takes place in Lambton Shores on property that is accessible to the general public and is used for community purposes.
- Falls under one or more of the following categories:
 - Energy sustainability
 - Land stewardship
 - Recreation projects
 - Agriculture / Rural Affairs

- Arts / Culture / Community Heritage
- Community / Special Events
- Community Beautification / Environmental Awareness
- Supporting Youth / Seniors
- Tourism / Economic Development
- Funding for ongoing and/or annual cultural and/or historical events that are not capital projects, but promote tourism and/or historical significance to Lambton Shores, but does not include Canada Day Celebrations
- The project must not require operational support from the Municipality.
- There is demonstrated community need and support for the project.

Applications are reviewed and assessed by staff using the approved evaluation grid (attached). The request from the Grand Bend Art Centre for Paint Ontario received an evaluation score of 10/12.

ALTERNATIVES TO CONSIDER

This is the first application received through the newly established Community Vibrancy Fund – Large Projects program. It is anticipated that there will be additional requests received throughout 2024, but the timing and value of these projects is not currently known.

When presented with funding applications, Council may wish to consider the following guiding principles:

- Is the project “shovel ready” – meaning, does the applicant have the required 2/3 funding on hand needed to complete the project?
- How does the project align with Council’s priorities and/or other identified supported initiatives?
- If the project is for municipal property, what are the operational implications?
- What is the overall long-term impact and benefit of the project?
- Does the project align with Council’s vision for Vibrancy projects?

Council has the sole authority to approve or deny funding requests at its discretion.

This report seeks Council direction on the funding request from the Grand Bend Art Centre. There are several options outlined below that may be considered:

- 1) Fund the project as requested.

The request made by the Grand Bend Art Centre for the annual Paint Ontario show and sale to create a mobile art gallery space at the Grand Bend Legion is an eligible project under Policy CP-CS-POL-005 Community Vibrancy Fund – Large Projects. The total funding request is \$31,413.00 which is equal to 1/3 of the total project costs.

Council could fund the request through the non-segregated portion of the Vibrancy Fund as there are sufficient funds to cover the request.

If Council chooses to fund the request, staff recommends that the Vibrancy Funds are not released to the applicant until the applicant can provide proof that the remaining 2/3 of project funding has been received, to the satisfaction of the Director of Financial Services. The applicant will be required to sign a funding agreement with the Municipality prior to the release of the funds. A copy of the agreement is attached.

2) Do not fund the request.

Council may choose not to fund the request for any reason of its choosing. Council is the sole authority to make funding decisions under the Vibrancy Fund – Large Projects program. Generally, staff will recommend that Large Vibrancy requests are funded through the non-segregated portion of the Vibrancy Fund. This fund exists through the initial amount of just under \$2 million plus 50% of the annual contribution received through Cordelio Power (formerly known as Nextera and Jericho Wind). There are finite funds available and unlike the segregated portion of the Vibrancy Fund that has been established for the Community Vibrancy Small Projects, there is no plan for long-term sustainability of the non-segregated fund. It is anticipated that additional requests for funding will come forward to Council in 2024.

3) Fund the request at a reduced amount.

There is no obligation for Council to fully fund the request from the Grand Bend Art Centre. Council may choose a lesser amount if desired.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

This report is being provided for Council direction.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The financial impact of this report depends on Council's decision to fully fund, partially fund, or not fund the request. The amount requested from the Grand Bend Art Centre is \$31,413.00 and if funded, staff recommends that funds come from the non-segregated portion of the Vibrancy Fund.

CONSULTATION

Janet Ferguson, Director of Financial Services
Steve McAuley, CAO
Grand Bend Art Centre

Attached:

- 1) Grand Bend Art Centre Community Vibrancy Fund – Large Projects Application
- 2) Project Budget
- 3) Grand Bend Art Centre Presentation
- 4) Evaluation Form
- 5) Funding Agreement