May 14, 2019

To: Chair and Members
   Committee of the Whole – Operations and Administration

From: Sandy Jackson
   General Manager, Community Programs, Parks and Recreation

1.0 Type of Report

   Consent Item [ ]
   Item For Consideration [ x ]


3.0 Recommendation

   A. THAT report number 2019-315 titled Canada Cultural Spaces Fund Application BE RECEIVED; and

   B. THAT the General Manager, Community Programs, Parks and Recreation BE AUTHORIZED to submit a funding application to the Canada Cultural Spaces Fund to partially fund the purchase of specialized stage drapery for the Sanderson Centre.

4.0 Purpose and Overview

   This report seeks authorization to make an application to the Department of Canadian Heritage Canada Cultural Spaces Fund (CCSF). A Resolution from City Council approving the request for funding is required in the program guidelines.
5.0 Background

The CCSF provides funding to support a number of initiatives to improve the “conditions for arts and heritage related creation, presentation, preservation and exhibition”. Up to 50% of the project cost can be funded through this grant to assist with “the acquisition of specialized equipment … related to cultural spaces.”

6.0 Corporate Policy Context

High Quality of Life & Caring for All Citizens – Brantford citizens and visitors will enjoy a full range of well-supported and maintained arts, heritage, culture, sports, and recreational facilities and programs.

The Sanderson Centre Business plan’s Goal #3 is “to develop diverse revenue streams to achieve a healthy balanced organization”.

7.0 Input From Other Sources

There is no input from other sources for this report.

8.0 Analysis

The Sanderson Centre is approaching its centennial anniversary in December, 2019. As part of these celebrations a number of initiatives are underway to highlight the historical elements of the theatre and its place in the community.

One project has been previously identified without a funding source. This project is the design, supply, and installation of a historically accurate stage drapery 'portal' for use in the centennial season and in future years. This will involve historical research to replicate the style of the original stage drapery scenic artist – William Drake. The drapery will provide a distinctive visual appearance that complements the auditorium architecture including the heritage-designated proscenium arch. It will improve functionality for productions of a more intimate nature by framing the stage into a smaller performance space.

Recently the Sanderson Centre Foundation which operates independently, has approved partial funding for this project conditional on another source of funding being secured. Staff have investigated the suitability of other funding sources including confirmation of eligibility for the project through the CCSF.
Historically the Sanderson Centre was successful in receiving funding through the CCSF in 2007 and again in 2018 for purchase of specialized audio equipment. Additionally, the Economic Development and Tourism department has received CCSF funding to partially fund the feasibility study for the mid-sized performance venue project. There is no limit to the number of applications from a single organization.

9.0 Financial Implications

A successful grant application will permit the procurement of the stage drapery as part of the centennial season. With the existing conditional commitment from the Sanderson Centre Foundation, it is anticipated that the purchase cost of the equipment would be fully funded from these two external sources. It is likely that some installation costs to integrate the drapery into the existing stage fly system will be required to be paid as an operating expense of the department. This amount is anticipated to be minimal and can be funded within the existing operating budget for production costs.

10.0 Conclusion

The funding provided by the CCSF is intended to assist cultural facilities with improvements to their facilities and infrastructure. The equipment identified to be purchased through this program will help achieve that goal with minimal impact on the Sanderson Centre’s operating costs.

Glenn Brown
Theatre Manager, Sanderson Centre

Sandy Jackson
General Manager, Community Programs, Parks and Recreation

In adopting this report, is a by-law or agreement required? If so, it should be referenced in the recommendation section.

By-law required [ ] yes [x] no

Agreement(s) or other documents to be signed by Mayor and/or City Clerk [ ] yes [x] no

Is the necessary by-law or agreement being sent concurrently to Council? [ ] yes [x] no