



Staff Report for Council Meeting

Date of Meeting: January 22, 2020

Report Number: SRCS.20.01

Department: Community Services
Division: Recreation and Culture Services

Subject: **SRCS.20.01 – 2020 Community and Cultural Grant Program**

Purpose:

This report is to present Staff's analysis of the 2020 Community and Cultural Grant Program applications and recommendations for approval by Council.

Recommendation(s):

- a) That the Community and Cultural Grant applications listed in Appendix "A" be received; and
- b) That Community and Cultural Grants totaling \$64,820 be provided to the following organizations and individual artists:
 - Alzheimer Society of York Region - \$2,475
 - Art in Migration - \$5,000
 - Bridge to Artists - \$2,500
 - Burr House Spinners and Weavers - \$500
 - Chorus York - \$2,000
 - High Note Avante Productions Inc. - \$5,000
 - Home on the Hill Supportive Housing - \$2,750
 - Iranian Canadian Teens Club - \$3,000
 - Jessica Leung - \$2,500
 - Kindred Spirits Orchestra - \$2,500
 - Michelle Zikovitz - \$750
 - Opera York - \$5,000
 - Project 99A - \$2,095
 - Richmond Hill Concert Band - \$5,000
 - Richmond Hill Philharmonic Orchestra - \$5,000
 - Richmond Hill United Church - \$3,000
 - Robin Hesse - \$4,000
 - Sean Cisterna - \$5,000
 - Shadowpath Theatre Productions - \$5,000
 - York Region Indian Seniors Club - \$1,750

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Contact Person:

Karin Ash, Manager Cultural Services, 905-508-7012 extension 225
Darlene Joslin, Director of Recreation and Culture, extension 2423

Report Approval:

Submitted by: Ilmar Simanovskis, Commissioner of Community Services

Approved by: Neil Garbe, City Manager

All reports are electronically reviewed and/or approved by the Division Director, Treasurer (as required), City Solicitor (as required), Commissioner and City Manager. Details of the reports approval are attached.

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Background:

In February 2015, Council approved the new Community and Cultural Grant Program with an annual funding allocation of \$65,000. The purpose of the program is to provide project funding to community and cultural organizations and individual artists whose projects support a more vibrant Richmond Hill through the delivery of programs, services or activities.

The Community and Cultural Grant Program is administered through the Community Services Department, Recreation and Culture Division. Once an in depth review of the applications is completed, a report is presented to Council for approval of the funding allocations.

The program has two distinct project funding streams, one for the community organizations sector and one for the cultural sector. It is designed to support incorporated not-for-profit organizations and non-incorporated collectives that operate on a not-for-profit basis as well as individual artists. The maximum grant per project is 50% of the project budget up to a maximum of \$5,000. The eligibility criteria are outlined in the Community and Cultural Grant Program Guidelines, attached as Appendix “B”.

2020 marks the fourth round of funding for this annual program. From 2016 to 2019, 87 applicants have received funding. Based on a review of the final reports received to date it is estimated that the funds leveraged the following:

- 372 public engagement activities
- 59,073 direct participants in funded projects
- 2,734 volunteers engaged in funded projects
- 40,854.25 volunteer hours

The grant program has been well received by the applicants and the community. The program has supported the growth and development of local organizations and individual artists and has benefitted Richmond Hill in terms of economic impact, community responsiveness and enhancement of the City’s image and quality of life for Richmond Hill residents. It has allowed for the creation of impactful programs, services and activities that may otherwise have not been accomplished due to financial constraints. The investments made through the program have created new partnerships between organizations, innovative programs for the community and have provided new opportunities to showcase the excellence in the arts community in Richmond Hill.

2020 Community and Cultural Grant Program

The deadline to submit applications for the 2020 Community and Cultural Grant Program was November 1, 2019. Prior to the deadline, the applications were made available to the public for an eleven-week period and an information session was held on September 24, 2019. All community and cultural organizations as well as the

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general public were notified through direct mail, email, social media channels, and Bulletin Board ads in the Liberal. A total of 34 applications were received with a combined request of \$145,492 of which \$117,437 is considered eligible based on the criteria outlined in the program guidelines and of which \$64,820 is being recommended for contributions to 20 applicants.

Analysis and Recommendations

Applications submitted under the Community Projects stream were reviewed by a Community Projects Review Team, which is comprised of staff. Applications submitted under the Cultural Projects stream were reviewed by a Cultural Project Review Team, which was comprised of staff and three citizen members. Each review team assessed the applications based on the criteria outlined in the Community and Cultural Grant Program Guidelines.

A summary of the 2020 application requests, analysis and recommendations is attached as Appendix “A”.

The Community and Cultural Grant Program Guidelines document is attached as Appendix “B”.

Upon approval of this report and funding allocations, staff will follow up with applicants to inform them of the decisions related to their applications. Staff will follow up with the approved recipients throughout the period of their specific project and will ensure final project reports are submitted in a timely manner as per the expectations outlined in the application process.

Financial/Staffing/Other Implications:

The Community and Cultural Program Grant Budget is \$65,000. Based on review of the 34 applications received, the Community and Cultural Project Review Teams are recommending 20 of the 34 applications receive funding in the total amount of \$64,820.

Relationship to the Strategic Plan:

The Community and Cultural Grant Program aligns with the Goal 1 of the Strategic Plan “Creating Better Choice” by removing “barriers to effective participation for all people in the community”, and encouraging “more participation in City-wide and community events”; Goal 2 of the Strategic Plan “Better Choice in Richmond Hill” by promoting “opportunities for people to volunteer and share their talents with the community” and Goal 3 of the Strategic Plan, “A More Vibrant Richmond Hill”, supporting activities that allow people to “celebrate natural and cultural diversity, foster creativity, exchange ideas and appreciate the arts”.

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This Community and Cultural Grant program also aligns with Goal 1, recommendation 5 of the Cultural Plan, specifically, "To replace the Mayor's Endowment Fund for the Arts with a permanent Richmond Hill Cultural Funding Program".

Conclusion:

This report recommends the approval of 20 applications for a total funding amount of \$64,820.

The Richmond Hill Community and Cultural Grant Program continues to be successful. It clearly demonstrates the Town's commitment to supporting the innovative and creative projects delivered by the community and cultural organizations and artists. The program supports the not-for-profit sector in building capacity and enhancing the vibrancy of the community. The program will continue to consider applications for projects that have a significant benefit to Richmond Hill in terms of economic impact, community responsiveness and enhancement of the Town's image and quality of life for Richmond Hill residents.

Attachments:

The following attached documents may include scanned images of appendixes, maps and photographs. If you require an alternative format, please call the contact person listed in this document.

- Appendix A - 2020 Community and Cultural Grant Application Recommendations
- Appendix B - Community and Cultural Grant Program Guidelines

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Report Approval Details

Document Title:	SRCS.20.01 2020 Community and Cultural Grant Program.docx
Attachments:	- Appendix A 2020 CCGP Recommendations.xlsx - Appendix B 2020 CCGP Guidelines Final.pdf
Final Approval Date:	Jan 8, 2020

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

Darlene Joslin - Dec 21, 2019 - 9:00 AM

Ilmar Simanovskis - Jan 8, 2020 - 10:05 AM

Neil Garbe - Jan 8, 2020 - 10:36 AM