



Staff Report for Committee of the Whole Meeting

Date of Meeting: June 7, 2023

Report Number: SRCFS.23.11

Department: Community Services
Division: Recreation and Culture Services

Subject: **SRCS.23.11 – 2023 Community and Cultural Grant Program**

Purpose:

This report is to present Staff's analysis of the 2023 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 \$64,640 be provided to the following community and cultural organizations, and individual artists:
 - CHATS \$4,850
 - Community Living York South \$5,000
 - Rise Above GTA Inc. \$5,000
 - Salvation Army \$1,000
 - Bindu Shah \$5,000
 - Caterina Liberatore \$500
 - Christos Damianos \$2,500
 - Howard Wong \$5,000
 - Kousha Nakhaei \$5,000
 - Vania Chan \$4,700
 - Chorus York \$3,750
 - Dance Together Festival \$5,000
 - Federation of Chinese Canadians in York Region \$5,000
 - High Notes Avante Productions Inc. \$3,750
 - Odeiwin \$4,160
 - Origami Canada \$680
 - Richmond Hill Philharmonic Orchestra \$3,750

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Contact Person:

Donald Hearn, Director Recreation and Culture, 905-771-2503

Report Approval:

Submitted by: Tracey Steele, Commissioner of Community Services

Approved by: Darlene Joslin, 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 initiated a Community and Cultural Grant Program (the “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 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. Additional information about the Program, including eligibility criteria, can be found in the Community and Cultural Grant Program Guidelines attached as Appendix “B”.

During the active years of the Program (2016 to 2019), over 87 grants have been awarded by the City, equating to \$234,130 in financial support for local community and cultural organizations as well as individual artists. It is estimated that the grants have helped to facilitate projects that leveraged 372 public engagement activities, involved 59,073 direct participants, and engaged 2,734 volunteers who contributed 40,854 volunteer hours.

On November 23, 2022 Council directed staff to reinstate the Community and Cultural Grant program for 2023. As a result, the approved 2023 Operating Budget includes \$65,000 for a 2023 Community and Cultural Grant Program to fund projects taking place between June 1, 2023 and February 29, 2024.

2023 Community and Cultural Grant Program

2023 Community and Cultural Grant Program applications were made available to the public on February 17, 2023 for a six and a half week period and an information session was held on March 9, 2023. The deadline to submit applications was April 3, 2023. Community and cultural organizations as well as individual artists were notified through email, e-blasts, social media channels, including Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn, LCD and LED signs at community centres, and through a Public Service Announcement. 49 applications were received with a combined request of \$208,016.

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Analysis and Recommendations

A committee comprised of staff and three citizen members reviewed applications submitted. The committee assessed the applications based on grant application project eligibility requirements, ability to meet one or more of the project funding criteria, the proposed project budget meeting eligible expenses requirements, the average weighted score from the review team, and the applicant's previous funding status.

Applications with a total value of \$171,176 were determined to qualify for funding, and \$64,640 in grant requests submitted by 17 applicants, are being recommended for approval. A summary of the 2023 applications and recommendations is attached as Appendix "A".

Upon approval of the recommendations of this report, staff will follow up with applicants to inform them of the decisions related to their applications. Staff will then follow up again 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 guidelines.

Financial/Staffing/Other Implications:

The Community and Cultural Program Grant Budget is \$65,000. Based on review of the 49 applications received, the review committee is recommending that 17 of the 49 applications receive funding with the total value of \$64,640.

Relationship to Council's Strategic Priorities 2020-2022:

The Community and Cultural Grant Program supports Council's Strategic Priority of "A Sense of Belonging" by encouraging local community and cultural organizations and artists to undertake projects that enhance the quality of life for residents and inspire people to come together and celebrate cultural diversity, expression of creativity where ideas are fostered and exchanged, and to appreciate the arts and cultural community locally.

Climate Change Considerations:

Climate change considerations are not applicable to this staff report.

Conclusion:

This report recommends the approval of 17 applications for a total funding amount of \$64,640. The Richmond Hill Community and Cultural Grant Program demonstrates the City's commitment 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.

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Attachments:

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

- Appendix A – 2023 Community and Cultural Grant Application Recommendations
- Appendix B – Community and Cultural Grant Program Guidelines

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Report Approval Details

Document Title:	SRCS.23.11 2023 Community and Cultural Grant Program.docx
Attachments:	- SRCS.23.11 Appendix A - 2023 Community and Cultural Grant Application Recommendations.pdf - SRCS.23.11 Appendix B - 2023 Community and Cultural Grant Program Guidelines.pdf
Final Approval Date:	May 30, 2023

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

Tracey Steele - May 30, 2023 - 10:23 AM

Darlene Joslin - May 30, 2023 - 4:56 PM