



**City of Kingston  
Report to Council  
Report Number 18-114**

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**To:** Mayor and Members of Council  
**From:** Lanie Hurdle, Commissioner, Community Services  
**Resource Staff:** Colin Wiginton, Cultural Director, Cultural Services  
**Date of Meeting:** April 3, 2018  
**Subject:** Downtown Gateway & Princess Street Improvements

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**Executive Summary:**

The Downtown Action Plan (DAP) was approved in principle by Council in 2004. It is an infrastructure and urban design study for downtown. The plan came from the need to replace the underground utility infrastructure (storm and sanitary sewers, waterlines, electrical, telecommunications and fibre optics) in the Downtown area. The DAP also makes specific references to gateways and the integration of public art.

The City also endorsed a Public Art Master Plan in 2014. The plan offers a framework to develop and maintain public art and support artistic activity in the community as well as to create consistent standards for public art in public realm, civic initiatives and private sector projects. The intent is to integrate public art into the City's capital planning process and in plans for new and renewed facilities, parks and infrastructure. The importance of incorporating public art to create better public spaces was also recently highlighted in the Council presentation provided by Brent Toderian.

The last phase of the Princess Street reconstruction within the DAP, is currently underway and is planned to be completed by 4<sup>th</sup> quarter, 2018. It is important to note that Princess Street will be open to traffic by July 1<sup>st</sup>. The current budget and construction plan for the last phase includes some beautification measures including materials utilized for sidewalks and street furniture but the budget and scope of work limited the opportunity for gateway features to the re-installation of the existing flag poles and did not include public art elements at the corner of Princess Street and Division Street. Staff have recently started to review options to add some gateway features and public art within the last phase of the Princess Street reconstruction.

Options for improvements to the gateway at Princess Street and Division Street with the integration of art features as well as potential sources of funding to enable this work have been identified by City staff. The improvements to the gateway have been divided in two (2) phases.

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The first phase includes options that could be incorporated within the last phase of the Princess Street reconstruction. The second phase will require more time to develop and establish as it will require discussions with adjacent property owners which have not yet taken place. Staff will conduct some public engagement for Phase 1 and the potential for Phase 2 and report back at a later time on these additional improvements.

For the initial phase, staff are recommending improvements with an estimated cost of up to \$310,000. This is proposed to be funded from the Main Street Revitalization Initiative, the existing capital budget and the Municipal Capital Reserve Fund. Staff will continue to explore other grant opportunities to support these and future potential improvements.

**Recommendation:**

**That** Council support the implementation of the Phase 1 beautification project of the gateway located at Princess Street and Division Street for a total cost estimated at \$310,000 to be funded as follows: \$139,106 from the Main Street Revitalization Initiative, \$56,000 from the existing approved Cultural Services capital budget and up to \$115,000 from the Municipal Capital Reserve Fund; and

**That** the by-law, attached as Exhibit A to Report Number 18-114, be presented for all three readings on April 3, 2018 in order to facilitate the expedient transfer of funds; and

**That** Council direct staff to review options for the Phase 2 beautification project of the gateway located at the Princess Street and Division Street and report back to Council at a later time; and

**That** Council authorizes the Mayor and Clerk to enter into a Municipal Funding Agreement with the Association of Municipalities of Ontario on the municipality's behalf; and

**That** the Commissioner of Community Services, or the Cultural Director as his/her designate, under delegated authority, be authorized to execute any legal agreements as required, to the satisfaction of the Director of Legal Services, to enable the City of Kingston to access grant funding that could support beautification in Phase 1 and Phase 2 for the gateway located at Princess Street and Division Street in Council Report Number 18-114.



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**Background:**

Over the past number of years, various City Councils have approved plans to ensure beautification and improvements of downtown locations to create better, more inviting and attractive public spaces. These plans include the DAP, Springer Market Square and the Public Art Master Plan. Significant investments have been made and continue to be made to create more attractive and lively public spaces, especially in the downtown core as it attracts a large number of tourists every year.

As part of the DAP, the City started to undertake the reconstruction of Princess Street which was driven primarily with the need to replace aging infrastructure. The first phase of reconstruction, which started east of Ontario Street, began in 2009 and has been completed in phases over the years in an attempt to minimize the impact on the downtown businesses. The last phase of the Princess Street reconstruction within the DAP is planned to be completed in 2018. The DAP identified features at entrances of the downtown core to create gateways and a sense of arrival. The DAP also referred to the integration of public art into the reconstruction of Princess Street.

The scope of work and budget for the Princess Street reconstruction limited the opportunity for gateway features to the re-installation of the existing flag poles on Princess Street at Division Street and did not include public art. Staff have recently been reviewing options to ensure that both are included at Princess Street and Division Street while the final phase of the Princess Street reconstruction is being completed.

Staff identified options that could be implemented in two phases. Phase 1 includes the following options which will be further reviewed and discussed with the Public Art Working Group:

Options	Estimated Cost
Right of Way, Princess Street, North Side - Replace and remove some flagpoles - Install footings - Artist call for sculptures including design, fabrication and installation of public art	\$165,000
Island with Flag Poles, Princess Street, North West Side - Replace flagpoles	\$112,500
Street Printing at Intersection - Design - Printing and Installation - Maintenance	\$32,500

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Staff have also identified options for additional improvements which would require the consent of surrounding property owners and therefore could be considered in a second phase. Staff will continue to explore these options and report back to Council at a later date.

**Main Street Revitalization Initiative**

The Main Street Revitalization Initiative is a \$26 million fund to help municipal governments undertake main street revitalization activities that support and benefit small businesses. The Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) has agreed to administer the funding on behalf of the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs. All municipalities are eligible for funding and the funding formula was established without the need for an application or matching funding. This funding program requires that the investment be applied to work endorsed through a Community Improvement Plan or municipal physical infrastructure priorities identified through other municipal land use planning documents for the municipality's main street that involves construction, renewal, renovation or redevelopment.

Staff have reviewed the program criteria and have confirmed that the proposed gateway improvements, as part of the Princess Street reconstruction, qualify for this funding. The City of Kingston has been allocated \$139,106 which was based on the pre-determined funding formula. This funding is being made available starting in April 2018 and requires for municipalities to pass a by-law with standard wording (Exhibit A) and that municipalities enter into an agreement with AMO to access this funding.

**Existing Policy/By Law:**

Not applicable

**Notice Provisions:**

Not applicable

**Accessibility Considerations:**

Not applicable

**Financial Considerations:**

City staff have identified an estimated cost of \$310,000 for the first phase of improvement initiatives located at Princess Street and Division Street as part of the Princess Street reconstruction. This is proposed be funded through the Main Street Revitalization Initiative (\$139,106), the existing Cultural Services capital budget (\$56,000) and the Municipal capital Reserve Fund (up to \$115,000).

**Contacts:**

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**Other City of Kingston Staff Consulted:**

Julie Fossitt, Manager, Cultural Marketing, Cultural Services

Mark Campbell, Director, Engineering, Engineering Services

Paige Agnew, Director, Planning, Building & Licensing Services

Peter Huigenbos, Director, Real Estate & Environmental Initiatives

**Exhibits Attached:**

Exhibit A By-Law Authorizing a Municipal Funding Agreement

**By-Law Number 2018-XX**

**A By-Law to Authorize the Execution of an Agreement with Her Majesty the Queen in Right of the Province of Ontario as Represented by the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (Main Streets Revitalization Initiative)**

**Passed: XXX**

**Whereas** the City of Kingston wishes to enter into an Agreement with the Association of Municipalities of Ontario in order to participate in Ontario's Main Streets Revitalization Initiative;

**And Whereas** the City of Kingston acknowledges that the Funds received through the Agreement must be invested in an interest bearing reserve account until earliest of expenditure or March 31, 2020;

**Therefore be it resolved that** the Council of the Corporation of the City of Kingston hereby enacts as follows:

1. That the Mayor and City Clerk are hereby authorized to execute on behalf of the City of Kingston a Municipal Funding Agreement (Agreement) with Her Majesty the Queen in right of the Province of Ontario as represented by the Association of Municipalities of Ontario for the transfer of Main Streets Revitalization Initiatives funds.
2. That the Mayor and Clerk have the delegation of authority to execute any and all required documentation on behalf of the City of Kingston as required by the Association of Municipalities of Ontario for Main Streets Revitalization Initiatives
3. This By-Law shall come into force and take effect on the date of its passing.

Given all Three Readings and Passed: XXX

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**John Bolognone**  
City Clerk

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**Bryan Paterson**  
Mayor