



CITY OF KINGSTON
REPORT TO ARTS, RECREATION AND
COMMUNITY POLICIES COMMITTEE

Report No.: ARCP-12-004

TO: Chair and Members of Arts, Recreation and Community Policies Committee

FROM: Cynthia Beach, Commissioner of Sustainability & Growth Group

RESOURCE STAFF: Brian McCurdy, Cultural Director, Cultural Services Department
Colin Wiginton, Manager, Cultural Services Department

DATE OF MEETING: January 26, 2012

SUBJECT: An Update Regarding the Proposed Expansion of the Arts Advisory Committee Membership

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

In the Kingston Culture Plan (KCP) approved by Council in September 2010, it was identified that Cultural Services report to Council on expanding the membership of the Arts Advisory Committee to include representatives from labour organizations, the business and institutional sectors in Kingston including education, tourism, small business and expanding the mandate to include relationship building and communication about the value of culture in Kingston (Recommendation #42).

This recommendation was brought forward to the Arts Advisory Committee for consideration and, as a result, the decision was made to establish a Creative Cities Working Group as a mechanism through which to research and then recommend a suggested mandate for proposed a Creative City Committee or Resource Group. At the same time staff has also been researching how best to respond to KCP Recommendation #42. This research has included an extensive literature review as well as efforts to identify a range of best practices within other municipalities.

At this time it has been identified that more time is needed for the Creative City Working Group of the Arts Advisory Committee to pursue its work and for staff within the Cultural Services department to complete its research and develop an effective response to KCP Recommendation #42. It is anticipated that this will take some time but that some resolution can be achieved by November 2012 when the next round of Committee nominations is sought by the City.

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RECOMMENDATION:

This report is for information purposes only.

AUTHORIZING SIGNATURES:

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY COMMISSIONER

_____ Cynthia Beach, P.Eng, MCIP, RPP, Commissioner, Sustainability & Growth Group

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

_____ Gerard Hunt, Chief Administrative Officer
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CONSULTATION WITH THE FOLLOWING COMMISSIONERS:

Lanie Hurdle, <i>Community Services</i>	N/R
Denis Leger, <i>Transportation, Properties & Emergency Services</i>	N/R
Jim Keech, <i>President and CEO, Utilities Kingston</i>	N/R

(N/R indicates consultation not required)

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OPTIONS/DISCUSSION:

In the Kingston Culture Plan (KCP) approved by Council in September 2010, it was identified that Cultural Services report to Council on expanding the membership of the Arts Advisory Committee to include representatives from labour organizations, the business and institutional sectors in Kingston including education, tourism, small business and expanding the mandate to include relationship building and communication about the value of culture in Kingston (Recommendation #42).

This recommendation was first brought forward to the Arts Advisory Committee for consideration in the fall of 2010 following the approval of the KCP. At the time, the Committee membership discussed the recommendation and its potential impacts but no action was taken given the impending election as well as the anticipated turnover of the Committee membership itself. The recommendation was brought forward for discussion again at the June 2011 meeting of the Arts Advisory and was discussed at length over the next few meetings as the current Committee membership explored the purpose, meaning and potential impacts of the recommendation.

Arts Advisory Committee, Mandate/Terms of Reference

Since it was established in March 2008, the mandate of the Arts Advisory Committee has been to advise the City's Arts, Recreation & Community Policies Committee. The Committee itself is intended to serve as an avenue of communication and consultation between the arts community (visual arts, music, dance, performance, literature, film, craft and other arts) and the municipal government and the composition of the Committee is required to include individuals who are knowledgeable, experienced and passionate about the arts. The aim of the Committee is to ensure that the City of Kingston arts programs serve the needs and priorities of artists and arts organizations and are in step with those of peer municipalities, and broader, established norms in the field. Through regular communication with staff and Council through the Arts, Recreation & Community Policies Committee, the Arts Advisory Committee is intended to foster awareness of the goals, priorities and methods of the municipality within the arts community as well.

Kingston Culture Plan, Recommendation #42

As part of the KCP, it was identified by the consultants that there are no outside voices included as part of the membership of the Arts Advisory Committee and, therefore, it does not currently include arts advocates representing other sectors of the local economy – such as education, tourism and business – speaking with a unified voice about the importance of the arts in Kingston. As a potential evolution of the Arts Advisory Committee it was identified within the KCP that the arts community could strengthen its overall position within the community by building better relationships and broader communication about the value of the arts in Kingston by broadening its membership to include representatives of organizations like the Greater Kingston Chamber of Commerce, Kingston Accommodation Partners and KEDCO, for example.

Opinion of the Current Arts Advisory Committee Membership

Over a series of Committee meetings between July and September 2011, it emerged as the general consensus of the Committee membership that, while other input would be helpful, the

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mandate of the Arts Advisory Committee would have to change if the membership were expanded. It was also identified that this may not be a desirable change to make at this time given the fact that the Committee itself is still relatively new. The desire not to lose focus on the work that still needs to be done to strengthen both the profile and capacity of the local arts sector was also identified.

The outcome of this discussion is that the current Committee membership prefers that the mandate of the Arts Advisory Committee stay focused on arts-related issues for the time being. However, it was also recognized and acknowledged that there is a broader role for the arts in the community that merits further exploration. As part of this process it was recognized that it would be advantageous to look at culture in Kingston from a more holistic point of view. This would require involving a greater diversity of stakeholders and could potentially take the form of a Creative City or Creative Economy committee, task force, roundtable or working group. It was also identified that such an entity would require the leadership and involvement of key players from within the City as well as from across the community and across numerous different sectors in order for it to be effective.

Evolution of Motions in Response to the Kingston Culture Plan, Recommendation #42

As a result of the discussions that took place within the context of the Arts Advisory Committee meetings, the following motion was passed on September 8, 2011:

Moved by Ms. Kristiana Clemens

Seconded by Mr. Matt Rogalsky

THAT the Arts Advisory Committee enthusiastically supports relationship building and communication about that value of culture in Kingston as identified in the Kingston Culture Plan (Recommendation #42); and

THAT a diversity of stakeholders have a role to play in asserting the value of culture, especially as it relates to cultural vitality, wealth creation and quality of life; and

THAT those stakeholders would include broad representation from various communities, including the arts as well as heritage, education, libraries, tourism, economic development, business, social planning, housing, environment and youth; and

THAT the most appropriate forum for a broader discussion of the value of culture in Kingston would be a creative city committee or resource group that would support the objectives of the municipality; and

THAT the Arts Advisory Committee supports the creation of such a committee or group as an additional resource and that the Terms of Reference for the Arts Advisory Committee itself remain as they are in order to ensure the concerns of the arts community continue to be the sole focus of this committee.

CARRIED

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This motion was then forwarded to the Arts, Recreation & Community Policy Committee that considered the motion and passed the following resolution in response at their meeting held on September 22, 2011:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council direct Staff to prepare a report to be considered by the Arts, Recreation & Community Policies Committee at the January 12th, 2012 Committee meeting regarding the implementation of Recommendation 42 of the Kingston Cultural Plan,

- and further –

THAT it being understood that the Arts Advisory Committee be provided an opportunity to offer a suggested mandate for a future Creative City Committee or Resource Group, including its composition and a revised composition of the Arts Advisory Committee.

CARRIED

Arts Advisory Committee, Creative Cities Working Group

At the next meeting of the Arts Advisory Committee held on October 13, 2011 it was decided by the Committee membership to establish a Creative Cities Working Group as a mechanism through which to research and then recommend a suggested mandate for a Creative City Committee or Resource Group. It was also identified that a Creative Cities Working Group be used to provide a means in the short term to build relationships and potential partnerships with the business, institutional and tourism sectors and to develop a better informed understanding of creative cities and how the arts community, and Kingston as a whole, might benefit from this thinking.

As defined by the Arts Advisory Committee, the purpose of the Creative Cities Working Group is to provide research, input and advice to the Committee membership as it relates to the implementation of the KCP to the benefit of the local arts community and Kingston as a whole by:

- Identifying key issues and initiatives that relate to creating cultural vitality;
- Researching best practices that will support positioning Kingston as a creative city;
- Sharing information, knowledge and expertise across sectors and communities of interest;
- Pursuing relationships within the community to create cultural, economic and social capital;
- Leveraging partnership opportunities to support the realization of shared goals.

As a response to KCP Recommendation #42, the work of the Creative Cities Working Group is also intended to determine the need for a Creative Cities committee, task force, roundtable or working group in the long term and the most appropriate context/governance model for such an entity.

Staff Research

Staff within the Cultural Services department has also been researching how best to respond to KCP Recommendation #42 at the same time that the Arts Advisory Committee has been taking

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steps to explore this issue. This research has included an extensive literature review related to the notion of the Creative City as well as the Creative Economy that have been major topics of discussion within academia and within different levels of government since the 1990s. Efforts have also been made to identify a range of best practices within other municipalities, particularly in Ontario. The findings have been varied but examples have been found that have provided important insight into what has, and what has not, worked in other communities. Selected examples include the following:

- Creative City Working Group, London, Ontario
- http://www.london.ca/d.aspx?s=/Committees_and_Task_Forces/Creative_City/taskforce_members.htm#Creative_Cities_Working_Group
- Creative Enterprise Initiative, Waterloo, Ontario
- <http://www.creativeenterprise.ca/>
- Heritage, Arts, Culture and Entertainment (HACE) Downtown Brampton Creative Economy Round Table
- <http://www.brampton.ca/en/City-Hall/Council-Committees/Pages/HACE.aspx>

As part of this research it has also been acknowledged that a response to KCP Recommendation #42 cannot be formulated in isolation of other recommendations contained within the KCP itself, or in isolation of other corporate strategies, plans or priorities.

Of particular relevance to the KCP Recommendation #42, and the need for relationship building and broader communication, is KCP Recommendation #2 that calls for the creation of an interdepartmental culture team. As described, the mandate of this interdepartmental culture team would be to support collaborative working relationships and provide advice on the effective use of cultural resources to achieve city-wide cultural and strategic objectives. A critical aspect of this recommendation is the need to work across sectors as a way to identify shared goals that have the potential to benefit multiple stakeholders. It also offers a way of working internally through improved communications and collaboration to leverage resources more efficiently and effectively to achieve a variety of seemingly divergent goals.

Initial research has also shown that a similar approach can be applied involving a diversity of both internal and external stakeholders representing seemingly divergent goals and interests. For example, the Downtown Brampton Creative Economy Round Table provides a model of collaboration involving the local arts council, business association and economic development office along with various city departments working together to leverage the creative economy as a way to foster economic vitality and improve the image of the city overall. The formation of a round table in Brampton represents an interesting example of a collective effort to position culture, heritage and the arts in a way that requires a knitting together of resources to achieve a shared result, which is economic development. It also provides an interesting example of a proactive community plan that brings together a diversity of stakeholders using a methodology that reflects priorities identified by Kingston's own City Council (#2 Enabling Economic Development; and #6 Proactive Community Plans).

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Next Steps

At this time it has been identified that more time is needed for the Creative City Working Group of the Arts Advisory Committee to pursue its work and for staff within the Cultural Services department to complete its research and develop an effective response to KCP Recommendation # 42. For staff this would ideally include an opportunity to consider the mandate/terms of reference for all committees that relate to the work of Cultural Services, including the Grand Theatre Community Advisory Board, MacLachlan Woodworking Museum Advisory Committee and the Pump House Steam Museum Advisory Committee. All of these Committees, and more, are impacted by the recommendations included in the KCP and require careful consideration to ensure that they are properly structured and governed and to ensure that the membership of each Committee is appropriately representative of the community. It is anticipated that this will take some time but that some resolution can be achieved by November 2012 when the next round of Committee nominations is sought by the City.

EXISTING POLICY/BY LAW:

The recommendation to expand the membership of the Arts Advisory Committee would require an amendment to By-law No. 2010-205 (A By-Law to Define the Mandate and Meeting procedures for Committees Established by the Corporation of the City of Kingston) along with Council approval.

NOTICE PROVISIONS:

N/A

ACCESSIBILITY CONSIDERATIONS:

N/A

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

N/A

CONTACTS:

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OTHER CITY OF KINGSTON STAFF CONSULTED:

N/A

EXHIBITS ATTACHED:

N/A