

Municipality of Chatham-Kent

Chief Administrative Office

Corporate Initiatives

To: Mayor and Members of Council
From: Amy Wilcox, FCPA, FCMA, PMP
Manager, Special Initiatives
Date: June 20, 2023
Subject: Together CK – Public Art Grant Program

Recommendations

It is recommended that:

1. Funds from the Together CK program, that has not been allocated to specific programs, in the amount of \$25,000, be used to establish the Together CK Public Art Grant.

Background

In 2018, Council made a decision to allocate additional funds towards the Together CK Grant Program. The objective was to foster the development of new partnership opportunities with the public. Unfortunately, the progress of these projects was put on hold due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Comments

Partnership Development will work with the Arts & Culture division in establishing a new Public Art Grant Program. It is recommended that \$25,000 from the Together CK Grant Program be used to establish the Public Art Grant Program.

Furthermore, Partnership Development is pleased to advise that an additional \$5,000 has been approved by the Chatham-Kent Community Foundation specifically for the Public Art Grant Program. This brings the total funding for the Public Art Grant Program to \$30,000 for 2023, 2024 and 2025, providing an excellent opportunity to support and nurture artistic endeavors within our community.

Partnership Development will work with Public Art Staff and committees (Interdepartmental Public Art Team and Public Art Advisory Committee) to develop the objectives of the Public Art Grant Program. Proposed objectives include, but are not limited to:

1. **Foster Artistic Expression:** The primary objective of the Public Art Grant Program is to encourage and support artistic expression within our community. By providing funding opportunities, the program aims to empower artists to bring their creative visions to life through public art installations.
2. **Enhance Community Spaces:** The grant program seeks to enhance the visual appeal and cultural vibrancy of our community spaces through the installation of public art. The objective is to transform public areas into engaging, thought-provoking, and aesthetically pleasing environments that inspire and captivate residents and visitors alike.
3. **Promote Collaboration and Community Engagement:** The program aims to foster collaboration between artists, community organizations, and residents. By encouraging partnerships and involvement from various stakeholders, the grant program seeks to create a sense of ownership and pride in the community's artistic endeavors.
4. **Support Local Artists:** The grant program is committed to supporting and nurturing local artistic talent. One of the objectives is to provide financial assistance to emerging and established artists, enabling them to pursue their creative projects and contribute to the cultural fabric of our community.
5. **Reflect Community Identity and Diversity:** The Public Art Grant Program strives to reflect the rich diversity and unique identity of our community. The objective is to support art projects that celebrate cultural heritage, inclusivity, and the multifaceted nature of our population, fostering a sense of belonging and appreciation for our collective heritage.
6. **Encourage Innovation and Experimentation:** The grant program aims to encourage artists to push boundaries, explore new mediums, and experiment with innovative approaches to public art. By supporting unconventional and boundary-pushing projects, the program seeks to ignite artistic innovation and inspire the broader artistic community.
7. **Leave a Lasting Legacy:** The objective of the grant program is to create lasting artistic legacies within our community. By supporting impactful and enduring public art installations, the program aims to leave a lasting cultural imprint, generating pride and enjoyment for generations to come.

Eligibility Criteria

The Municipality of Chatham-Kent receives many requests for funding, therefore allocation of funding is competitive. An applicant must meet each of the eligibility criteria to advance to the decision-making stage of the review process:

1. **Artists and Artistic Teams:** The grant program is open to individual artists, artist collaborations, and artistic teams who demonstrate a track record of artistic excellence and proficiency in creating art for public view.
2. **Residency:** Priority will be given to artists who are residents of the local community or have a strong connection to the area. However, non-local artists with compelling proposals that significantly contribute to the cultural landscape of the community will also be considered.

3. **Artistic Discipline:** The grant program welcomes applications from artists working in various artistic disciplines, including but not limited to visual arts, sculpture, murals, installations, multimedia art, as long as the proposed project aligns with the goals and objectives of the program.
4. **Project Scope and Scale:** Applicants must provide a detailed project proposal outlining the scope, scale, and concept of the proposed public art installation. The proposal should demonstrate how the project will enhance community spaces, engage the public, and align with the program's objectives.
5. **Budget and Feasibility:** Applicants are required to submit a comprehensive budget for their proposed project, including anticipated costs for materials, fabrication, installation, and any other associated expenses. The proposal should demonstrate the feasibility of the project within the allocated grant amount and provide evidence of the artist's ability to execute the project successfully.
6. **Engagement and Community Impact:** Artists must describe how their proposed project will engage and interact with the local community. This can include community involvement during the planning and creation process, educational components, or opportunities for public participation. The project should have a tangible positive impact on the community, fostering a sense of pride, cultural enrichment, and social cohesion.
7. **Maintenance and Longevity:** Applicants should outline a maintenance plan for the proposed artwork to ensure its long-term sustainability and preservation. Consideration will be given to projects that demonstrate a commitment to the longevity of the artwork through appropriate materials, installation methods, and maintenance practices.
8. **Compliance and Safety:** All proposed projects must adhere to relevant legal and safety guidelines. Applicants must demonstrate their commitment to comply with local regulations, obtain necessary permits, and ensure the proposed artwork is safe for public interaction and viewing.

These above eligibility criteria will serve as a guideline to assess and select grant recipients who align with the objectives of the Together CK Public Art Grant Program while ensuring fairness, inclusivity, and quality in the selection process.

Areas of Strategic Focus

The recommendations in this report support the following areas of strategic focus:

			
Economic Prosperity	Healthy & Safe Community	People & Culture	Environmental Sustainability
—	—	3.3	—

Communication

A media release will be sent to local media outlets announcing a call for artists. Interested artists can learn more about the grant program via Let's Talk Chatham-Kent and can complete an application using the Let's Talk Chatham-Kent tool. Information regarding the art grant program will be shared via corporate social media platforms. Successful artists will receive a letter in the mail explaining their application was recommended for funding and what the amount of funding will be. A grant agreement, created by Legal Services will accompany the letter, as well as next steps on how the group can access initial funds.

Information regarding the successful applicants will be shared on social media and the corporate website under grants.

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Justice (DEIJ)

This report does not have implications related to diversity, equity, inclusion or justice, however, a copy of this report has been shared with the DEIJ and CKLIP team as some of the projects may support newcomers in the area.

Consultation

These recommendations were reviewed and are supported by the Together CK Grant Review Committee. The Review Committee consists of citizen representatives and municipal staff members.

The staff members are:

1. Manager, Special Initiatives, Chief Administrative Office – Amy Wilcox
2. Manager, Arts & Culture – Heather Slater
3. Coordinator, DEIJ – Rebecca Haskell-Thomas

Financial Implications

The Together CK Grant Program is composed of many programs with annual distributions of \$722,000. Programs include: Together CK Significant Events for a total of \$100,000, Together CK Events for a total of \$75,000, Together CK Community Projects for a total of \$200,000, and Together CK Core Grants \$347,000.

In 2019, Council approved an increase from \$175,000 to \$387,000 to the Together CK Grant Program for the development of new programs. COVID delayed the introduction of new programs.

The Together CK Art Grant is the third of the new programs. The financial implications of the recommendation made in this report is the allocation of \$25,000 from the Together CK Grant Program, unassigned funds, combined with funding from Chatham-

Kent Community Foundation of \$5,000, to develop a three-year art grant for a total amount of \$30,000 to distribute for three (3) years.

Additional funds from this program are funding Growing Together CK , a program funded by the municipality and a sponsor (municipal portion \$1,000) and Go Green Award Program, a program funded by the municipality and a sponsor (municipal portion \$2,000). With the introduction of these new programs, the balance of unassigned funds for new programs is \$24,000.

Prepared by: Amy Wilcox, FCPA, FCMA, PMP / Manager, Special Initiatives

Reviewed by: Michael Duben, BA, LLB / Chief Administrative Officer