



MEMO

To: Arts and Culture Hub Steering Committee

From: Manager of Economic Development

Date: April 19, 2022

Subject: Arts and Culture Centre Update

The following is an update for the committee on the status of the Arts and Culture Centre:

Funding:

Staff still await funding information on the federal Green and Inclusive Community Building Grant (GICB). Staff has been following up with the funding team but the only responses to date remain that there was a large interest in the program and decisions are still forthcoming.

There was also a question regarding other funding options. Unfortunately, we remain frozen while waiting for the response on the GICB. Until we know what they will offer, we do not have a defined cost to request from other funders. Also if the GICB is not approved, the scope of the project may be forced to change since the net carbon zero elements add 33% to the capital costs. While the concept of net carbon zero is worthwhile, without grants to subsidize the added cost, some difficult decisions will be needed.

Other Locations:

During the public discussions of moving the Recreation Hub to Spruce Ave, there were suggestions of moving the Arts Centre to 151 Ontario Ave.

Building on a different location will likely carry higher / different site preparation costs. Fortunately, core samples and other studies have been done on 151 Ontario in preparation for rec hub construction. Should the Committee feel that this is worthwhile pursuing now or in the future, a recommendation to Council would be needed to direct staff to research this location. There would be some costs to be incurred with the design firm (since their initial mandate is complete) and the current direction from Council remains the hwy 108 site.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Antunes