

REPORT FROM THE MUSEUM CURATOR

DESCRIPTION

Re: Application for the Recovery Fund for Heritage Organizations 2022-2023

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the report of the Museum Curator dated November 23, 2022, be received;

AND THAT Council authorize the Museum Curator to apply to the Recovery Fund for Heritage Organizations grant, for the amount of \$13,966.

BACKGROUND

The Museums Assistance Program (MAP) supports heritage institutions and workers in the preservation and presentation of heritage collections in Canada. The Program provides financial assistance to Canadian museums and related institutions for activities that:

- facilitate Canadians' access to our heritage;
- foster the preservation of Canada's diverse and rich cultural heritage (other than built heritage), including representative collections of Indigenous cultural heritage; and
- foster professional knowledge, skills and practices related to key museum functions with an overall long-term goal of ensuring Canada's heritage is available to its citizens.

The aim of the Recovery Fund for Heritage Organizations, available under the Museums Assistance Program (MAP), is to support ongoing operating costs for heritage organizations to allow them to continue to care for their heritage collections, as they seek to recover from pandemic-related losses. As the Elliot Lake Nuclear and Mining Museum is not-for-profit and manages a heritage collection, we are eligible to apply for this grant.

The Museum Assistance Program has run similar funding opportunities in the previous years: the COVID-19 Emergency Support Fund for Heritage Organizations and the Reopening Fund for Heritage Organizations. We were successful in both of our applications for this funding and received \$17,547 each occasion, for a combined total of \$35,094, which greatly helped the museum with operational and archival expenses.

ANALYSIS

While the Elliot Lake Nuclear and Mining Museum does not have a permanent home at the moment, we are still working to provide the community with accessible programming and rotating exhibitions available for public viewing in select City facilities. This funding would help support the museum in its recovery from both the tragedy of the collapse of the Civic Centre and the Covid-19 pandemic, as we move forward with reopening in more permanent functions.

The financial assistance provided under the Reopening Fund may be used to support business operations and activities that allow for the continuous care of heritage collections. Eligible monetary expenses may include, but are not limited to, costs associated with:

- ongoing operations;
- day-to-day collections management activities;
- salaries and wages;
- utilities;
- insurance;
- materials and supplies;
- costs for accessibility (not capital projects);
- Indigenous languages translation;
- minor capital costs (up to 10% of total amount awarded); and,
- other costs related to the care of the collection.

This funding can be allocated to the above operations and activities at the discretion of the organization for past and future expenses incurred in the twelve months between April 1, 2022 and March 31, 2023, and would help the museum get better established during this time.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

If the application for the Recovery Fund for Heritage Organizations grant is successful, the Elliot Lake Nuclear and Mining Museum will receive funding from the Department of Canadian Heritage in the amount of \$13,966, an amount determined by a formula based on our 2019 expenses.

LINKS TO STRATEGIC PLAN

This project aligns with the City's Strategic Plan through to support the Arts and Culture Community by:

- Supporting a strategic, vibrant, relevant museum for the future
- Cultivating in the citizens of Elliot Lake an appreciation of arts and culture through accessible programming, arts and cultural facilities and entertainment that is available to all citizens
- Maintaining and improving arts and cultural facilities

SUMMARY

It would be extremely pertinent and helpful for the Elliot Lake Nuclear and Mining Museum to apply for the Recovery Fund for Heritage Organizations funding offered through the Department of Canadian Heritage. Staff is seeking approval from Council to pursue applying for this funding on behalf of the City of Elliot Lake.