

REPORT FROM THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

DESCRIPTION

Re: Arts and Culture Hub Design Proposal

RECOMMENDATION

That the report from the Acting Director of Public Works be received;

AND THAT staff be directed to continue working with Brook McIlroy Inc. to prepare design documents in anticipation of applying to the federal Green and Inclusive Community Grant (GICB) program for funding for the Arts and Culture Hub at an upset cost of \$58,000 plus applicable taxes

AND THAT the required funds for the Brook McIlroy scope of work to prepare the application to the GICB be drawn from the Arts and Culture Reserve.

AND THAT the preliminary design documents prepared for the new GICB submission reflect a reduced scope of work and footprint to remove artist studio spaces (to be accommodated elsewhere in the community) as compared to the initial GICB submission of July 2021.

BACKGROUND

Elliot Lake applied to the first round of the GICB for the Arts and Culture Hub in July 2021 with the help of design engineers / architects Brook McIlroy Inc. following a competitive RFP. In June 2022, the City was notified that the first application was declined because the submitted application did not sufficiently demonstrate that the project's level of readiness and/or project risk and mitigation measures met the requirements of the program.

On December 19, 2022, Calvin Brook of Brook McIlroy attended a Public Services Standing Committee Meeting via Zoom in order to discuss his experience with successful applicants to this grant program, to give advice on how this project could be modified to increase the likelihood of successful funding from the GICB, and to clarify what direction is required from council in order to immediately proceed with design documents for submission to the GICB on February 28, 2023.

Based on the discussion at the meeting, the Public Services Standing Committee directed Staff and Mr. McIlroy to take initial steps towards preparing the required documentation needed to support an application to the GICB for the pending arts and culture hub project.

Specifically, the Public Services Standing Committee indicated that it would be appropriate to prepare a submission to the GICB that reflected a facility with reduced footprint, and that focused on the inclusion of a 400 seat theatre as well as areas for display of museum artifacts and art. Whereas previous designs

for this facility included areas for artist studios, this new preliminary design would forego this use case in order to reduce the project scale and budget.

ANALYSIS

Discussion with Brook McIlroy revealed that in order to increase the chances of success for funding through the GICB, the city should attempt to decrease the overall cost of the project, should ensure that there is a strong business case presented for regional economic impact, and should demonstrate that indigenous consultation has occurred and that collaboration with First Nations partners is ongoing.

Staff agrees with Brook McIlroy's assessment that there is little point in going to the effort of applying to the GICB without maximizing the application's chances of obtaining successful funding.

The Public Services Standing Committee also requested that Brook McIlroy prepare a proposal for consideration by Council at its earliest convenience that detailed costs to undertake the required design and documentation for the GICB grant submission.

A copy of that proposal letter is attached to this report for Council's review.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Brook McIlroy anticipates a cost of \$58,500.00 to prepare the required design documentation to support an application to the GICB. The expense to submit a second application to the GICB is currently unbudgeted. Staff recommends that the costs to prepare the application to the GICB be drawn from the insurance recovery funds currently held in reserve as a result of the loss at the Lester B Pearson Centre.

LINKS TO STRATEGIC PLAN

This project directly relates to the following key section of the strategic plan:

- Support in the arts and culture community

SUMMARY

Staff offers a fee proposal letter for review from Brook McIlroy that details the anticipated expense of preparing a second submission to the GICB grant program for funding to support the construction of an Arts and Culture Hub.

Staff recommends that council direct staff to move forward with preparing an application to the GICB in partnership with Brook McIlroy based on this proposal, and that the project be reduced in scale and budget in accordance with suggestions from the Public Services Standing Committee, staff and Brook McIlroy Inc. in order to maximize the chances of success with this funding opportunity.