

REPORT FROM THE DIRECTOR OF RECREATION AND CULTURE

Re: Downtown Arts Centre Operations

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the report from the Director of Recreation and Culture is received;

AND THAT the Recreation and Culture Standing Committee directs Council to make a decision on working with ARIEL to form a Memorandum of Understanding to operate the Downtown Art Centre.

BACKGROUND

The renovation for the Downtown Arts Centre is nearing completion. The Downtown Arts Centre is formally the Elliot Lake Reel To Reel Theatre that is being retrofitted into multiple working spaces to accommodate the displaced groups that were operating out of the Lester B. Pearson Civic Centre.

ANALYSIS

The Arts and Culture Roundtable in Elliot Lake (ARIEL) has submitted a proposal for the establishment of an Art Gallery and property management of 13-14 Elizabeth Walk (Downtown Arts Centre). Attached is ARIEL's proposal and letters of support from two primary tenants—The Arts Club and the Model Railroad Club. Ariel would staff the facility 6 days a week, provide cleaning services and supplies, and work with other groups in the facility to staff the centre. Additionally, they will operate an Art Gallery in the foyer and halls of the centre.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

In exchange for becoming property managers of the facility, ARIEL is requesting an annual contribution of \$5000 as seed money to seek grants. Additionally, they are requesting the installation of security cameras (approximately \$3500), an internet hot spot, and a versatile track lighting system. They are also requesting that the City would be responsible for the building itself and that the City would waive the rental fees. Lastly, there are some additional requests that the City could install based on resources it currently has in other facilities (i.e. racks for brochures and branded merchandise to sell).

In exchange for ARIEL becoming property managers, the city would save on operation and staff wages to operate the facility.

LINKS TO STRATEGIC PLAN

This proposal aligns with the City's Strategic Plan through:

- Health and community wellness
- Support in the arts and culture community
- Development of strong partnerships

SUMMARY

ARIEL has provided the City with a proposal to establish an Art Gallery and become the property managers of the Downtown Arts Centre. Staff are seeking direction from the Committee and Council regarding their inclination to work with ARIEL on establishing an MOU that outlines the agreed upon terms for ARIEL to assume the property management roles of the Downtown Arts Centre.