



Corporate Report

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GENERAL COMMITTEE

MAY 17 2006

DATE: May 3, 2006

TO: Chair and Members of General Committee
Meeting Date: May 17, 2006

FROM: Janice M. Baker, C.A.
City Manager and CAO

SUBJECT: **Mississauga Arts Review Taskforce Report**

- RECOMMENDATION:**
1. That the Mayor and Members of Council thank the Mississauga Arts Review Taskforce for their report titled "A Framework for the Future Vitality of the Arts in Mississauga" which was presented to Council on December 14, 2005.
 2. That the City Manager be authorized and directed to establish an Office of the Arts and hire a Director to lead the Division in a manner consistent with recommendation one (1) of the report from the Mississauga Arts Review Taskforce titled "A Framework for the Future Vitality of the Arts in Mississauga" whose recommendations are attached as Appendix one (1) to the report dated May 3rd, 2006 from the City Manager.
 3. That the Director of the Arts develop an arts strategy for Council's approval as outlined in recommendation two (2) of the report from the Mississauga Arts Review Taskforce titled "A Framework for the Future Vitality of the Arts in Mississauga" whose recommendations are attached as Appendix one (1) to the report dated May 3rd, 2006 from the City Manager.
 4. That the City Manager be directed to work with the Mayor, regarding the Mayor's Gala Fund, to implement recommendation

five (5) of the report from the Mississauga Arts Review Taskforce titled "A Framework for the Future Vitality of the Arts in Mississauga whose recommendations are attached as Appendix one (1) to the report dated May 3rd, 2006 from the City Manager.

5. That recommendations three (3), four(4) and six(6) made by the Arts Taskforce be reviewed as part of the Arts Strategy process and be brought back to Council at a future date for consideration.

BACKGROUND:

The Mississauga Arts Review Taskforce was established by Mayor McCallion at the beginning of 2005 to review the future of the arts in Mississauga and make recommendations for their sustainability for the next ten years. On December 14, 2005 the Taskforce presented its final report, "A Framework for the Future Vitality of the Arts in Mississauga", to City Council. The report, which was referred to staff for review and report, contained six (6) recommendations which are listed in Appendix 1.

PRESENT STATUS:

Since the December presentation, staff have considered the recommendations and the Mayor has met with the Boards of the Living Arts Centre and the Mississauga Arts Council.

COMMENTS:**The Mississauga Arts Review Taskforce Report**

The Mississauga Arts Review Taskforce report did not include implementation details as the Taskforce believed these should be developed following confirmation the City wished to move in the direction outlined in the report.

The Mississauga Arts Review Taskforce report recommends a broad base, holistic plan for the arts in Mississauga. The report's six (6) recommendations form an inter-connected road map for the future sustainability of the arts, with each recommendation building on the previous one. The Taskforce maintained that acceptance of only some of the recommendations will result in the continuation of the current fragmented structure that both the arts community and Taskforce believe results in a lack of co-ordination and clarity in the arts.

Staff agree that there is a sequence to most of the recommendations; however, in the absence of the broader strategy, it would be premature to implement them all at this time.

**Office of the Arts
(Taskforce
Recommendation 1)**

The first recommendation from the Taskforce is to establish an Office of the Arts as a separate Division with a Director responsible for implementing the City's arts agenda. Staff concur that the Office of the Arts will bring a strong, co-ordinated focus to the arts within the municipal structure. Once in place, the Director should be responsible for the development of an arts strategy and the assessment of recommendations three (3), four (4) and six (6) from the report as part of the development of an arts strategy. The recruitment of the Director is key to move ahead and this position should report directly to the City Manager for the immediate future. Reporting relationships can be further reviewed after the strategy has been fully implemented.

**Arts Strategy
(Taskforce
Recommendation 2)**

In order to develop a comprehensive implementation plan, the Director of Arts requires clear guidance from Council regarding the City's overall strategy for the arts. Consequently, the Director's first priority should be to draft an arts strategy for Council's approval as outlined in the Taskforce's second recommendation. The Director will be expected to consult extensively with the community in the development of this strategy. The remaining Taskforce recommendations will be considered as part of the process of developing the strategy.

**Mayor's Gala Funds
(Taskforce
Recommendation 5)**

The Taskforce's fifth recommendation is to transfer investment responsibility for the Mayor's Gala Fund to the Community Foundation of Mississauga. Staff concur with this recommendation and the City Manager should move ahead with the Mayor to implement.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

The anticipated cost of establishing the Director of the Office of the Arts is \$150,000 annually. As the Taskforce report was not completed until after the 2006 budget was presented to Council, the cost associated with hiring a Director was not included in this year's budget. Consultation with finance staff indicates that funding for 2006 is available through contingencies established in the 2006 budget. Future funding will be included in the regular budget process.

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CONCLUSION:

The Mississauga Arts Review Taskforce report brought forward a holistic set of recommendations for the future sustainability of the arts in Mississauga.

In order to proceed with developing plans to implement the recommendations, a Director for the Office of the Arts is required. Staff recommend that the recruitment process for this position begin immediately.

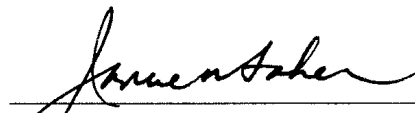
Furthermore, staff recommends that once hired, the Director immediately begin to develop an arts strategy for the City. The strategy will include recommendations regarding the Mississauga Arts Council, increased funding for the arts, and the Living Arts Centre having consulted with the impacted arts organizations and appropriate staff.

The City Manager should work with the Mayor to implement recommendation five regarding the Mayor's Gala Fund.

While the Taskforce urged Council to approve all the recommendations as one package, staff believes that an arts strategy needs first to be developed before concluding on recommendations three, four and six.

ATTACHMENTS:

Appendix 1: List of Recommendations from the Mississauga Arts Review Taskforce Report, "A Framework for the Future Vitality of the Arts in Mississauga", December 14, 2005



Janice M. Baker, C.A.
City Manager and CAO



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Appendix 1

List of Recommendations from the Mississauga Arts Review Taskforce Report, “A Framework for the Future Vitality of the Arts in Mississauga”, December 14, 2005

1. That Mississauga City Council create an OFFICE OF THE ARTS, by combining the current ten areas of the municipal structure dealing with the arts into a single, separate Division with a Director responsible for implementing City Council’s arts agenda.
2. That Mississauga City Council, through the OFFICE OF THE ARTS, develop an overall strategy for the arts, including a vision statement and the requirement for the arts strategy to be considered in all aspects of future municipal planning.
3. That Mississauga City Council transfer responsibility and funding for municipal arts grants and services to support the arts from the Mississauga Arts Council to the OFFICE OF THE ARTS; and that the OFFICE OF THE ARTS establish a community based Arts Review Panel to provide peer evaluation and input to the Director of the OFFICE OF THE ARTS on grant allocations; and that Mississauga City Council amend Resolution 0320-81 to reflect this recommendation.
4. That Mississauga City Council, through the OFFICE OF THE ARTS, increase the City of Mississauga’s annual financial allocation to arts organizations and artists for the funding of programs and artistic endeavours (excluding city-owned arts facility operation costs) from \$1.21 to \$3.00 per capita bringing the total annual funding of non-municipal arts to approximately \$2 million.
5. That the Mayor’s Gala Fund be named the “Hazel McCallion Endowment for the Arts” and investment responsibility be transferred to the Community Foundation of Mississauga and the interest be allocated annually by the OFFICE OF THE ARTS, based on input from the Mayor.
6. That Mississauga City Council transfer accountability for the Living Arts Centre to the OFFICE OF THE ARTS to reflect that the Living Arts Centre is a city-owned facility and a key element of Mississauga’s arts strategy.