

To: Members,  
Arts Advisory Committee

Re: Annual Report 2012

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### RECOMMENDATION

That this report be forwarded to the Community and Protective Services Committee for information.

### CONCLUSION

The Arts Advisory Committee (AAC) has completed a number of activities during 2012. A detailed review is provided in this report.

### BACKGROUND

The Arts Advisory Committee consists of nine members who in addition to being residents of Regina are knowledgeable in the arts and are sensitive to the needs of amateur and professional arts organizations serving Regina. No board member or employee of an organization that receives funding from the City shall be eligible to be a member of the AAC. City Council has authorized the AAC to do the following:

- (a) advise and make recommendations regarding arts related issues, policy development and programming;
- (b) advise and make recommendations regarding incorporating contemporary art practices into City planning and development;
- (c) advise and make recommendations regarding communication and outreach to the community regarding art;
- (d) advise and make recommendations on proposed artwork gifts, bequests and donations to the City;
- (e) consult with advisors with expertise and experience in visual arts production and education in order to develop recommendations with respect to art purchases and public art issues; and
- (f) make recommendations on disbursement of the Arts and Culture Grants Fund.

### DISCUSSION

In 2012 the AAC established a work plan with the following objectives:

1) Cultural Plan: The Arts Advisory Committee is pleased to assist the City with its long term goal of developing a cultural plan for Regina. The goal in 2011 was to advise and make recommendations for a cultural plan including updating the Arts policy. Since the work plan was established the City of Regina has launched two initiatives, a Community Investment review and the Official Community Plan, Design Regina. The outcome of these initiatives will have significant impact on the arts environment. The AAC looks forward to providing advice with regard to the cultural plan in 2013.

2) Investigate an arms length organization that would provide benefits for arts development in the City. The AAC has made a recommendation with regard to this below.

3) Conduct a strategic planning session with a focus on goals and objectives for the Committee and funding direction for the adjudication process. The AAC is providing advice related to developing the detailed criteria for arts funding and the process for adjudication. This process is expected to be complete by December 2012 with the new criteria and process to be implemented starting in January 2013.

4) Civic Arts Fund Adjudications: A significant amount of AAC member volunteer time was taken up with adjudicating requests from arts organizations who applied to the City for community investment assistance. In 2012, 32 arts organizations applied for Civic Arts Fund assistance.

During the assessment process, AAC members are paired up with a partner and are charged with reviewing all applications and presenting recommendations on specific arts organizations assigned to them. Three weeks of reading and grant application review culminated in a weekend assessment on April 28 and 29, 2012. A total of \$1,143,850 was recommended to 32 arts organizations. One organization request for funding was recommended for denial by the AAC.

5) Arm’s Length Arts Council: For the past 2 years the AAC has been researching the option of establishing an arm’s length arts council to award civic arts funding. Members of the AAC and civic administration have surveyed a variety of arts councils across Canada and as part of the process visited arts councils in Calgary and Winnipeg to conduct an in-depth assessment.

Based on the above work, the Committee recommends that the City: consider establishing an arm’s length Regina Arts Council, to carry out its cultural policy; and the Arts Advisory Committee become a more formally structured semi-autonomous granting body having responsibility for making grants. Precedents for this model have been set by the Canada Council, Manitoba Arts Council, and other civic arts councils, (Toronto, Edmonton, Montreal and Winnipeg).

A Regina Arts council could have 3 basic responsibilities:

- A grant giving role with final authority on grants within the budgeted allocation
- A proactive advisory role to the City of Regina on cultural development and support
- An advocacy role with and for the cultural community

The AAC acknowledges that the City is in the process of implementing the recommendations of the Community Investment Review and working on a Cultural Plan. As a result the AAC recognizes that this may not be an appropriate or opportune time to move forward with a stand-alone Arts Council.

Respectfully submitted;

Greg Argue

Greg Argue  
Chair, Arts Advisory Committee