

DATE OF MEETING MAY 15, 2024

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SUBJECT BUILDING COMMUNITIES THROUGH ARTS AND HERITAGE - COMMUNITY ANNIVERSARIES PROGRAM

OVERVIEW

Purpose of Report:

To advise the Finance and Audit Committee that the City has submitted a grant application to the Building Communities Through Arts and Heritage - Community Anniversaries Program for a community event to recognize Nanaimo's 150 years of incorporation.

BACKGROUND

The Community Anniversaries program is a funding stream through the Building Communities through Canadian Heritage's Arts and Heritage program. The Community Anniversaries component provides funding to local groups, including municipalities, for non-recurring local anniversary commemoration events. Funding is available for events that mark the 100th anniversary or greater, in increments of 25 years for a significant local historical event or personality.

The Community Anniversaries program offers funding up to \$200,000 of eligible expenses for events that meet the following criteria:

- Presents work of local artists and demonstrates arts and heritage are a primary component of the event,
- Involves members of the local community,
- Intended for and accessible to the general public,
- Include eligible commemorative items and capital projects up to a maximum of \$25,000. Examples include community art projects, restoration of objects, statues and murals.

The application deadline was 2024-APR-30 and funding is expected to be announced within 24 weeks of the application deadline. The City anticipates results will be announced no later than October 2024.

DISCUSSION

The City has submitted a grant application to assist with funding a community event recognizing 150 years of incorporation. Nanaimo was the sixth municipality to be incorporated in British Columbia and since that time the City has provided services and support to the community.

Working collaboratively with community and arts and culture partners, the City will host Luminous Paths: Nanaimo's 150 & Beyond, which will be a winter art festival that is a celebration of light, art, land, and community. The festival will open with an event centred in Maffeo Sutton Park on 2025-JAN-22, with performances by local musicians, and involvement of local business and vendors to mark the date of the first Council meeting 150 years ago.

The festival will incorporate temporary light-based art installations which will be on display in identified public spaces located along the waterfront and in the City's downtown core. The temporary art projects will be available for viewing until the festival closing event on 2025-FEB-17. The closing event will take place on Family Day at Maffeo Sutton Park with a focus on engaging families and youth, with performances by child-friendly acts such as magicians and musicians.

Two permanent public art projects will also be commissioned in complement to Luminous Paths: Nanaimo's 150 & Beyond. Artists will be asked to submit proposals for site-specific, light-based public art installations to illuminate dark corners of Nanaimo's waterfront and downtown core.

These permanent installations represent the City's commitment to supporting arts and culture, and desire to light the way to a brighter future as we continue to build our community together. While the event commemorates 150 years since incorporation, the City recognizes that the Snuneymuxw First Nation has stewarded these lands since time immemorial. The Nation will be invited to be part of the festival and a Snuneymuxw artist will be invited to create a permanent public art project, reflecting the City's continued commitment to reconciliation and to making Snuneymuxw art visible in public spaces throughout the community.

Luminous Paths: Nanaimo's 150 & Beyond lights the future for our city, recognizing not only the vibrancy of our current cultural community, but signifying hope for what is to come and what our community has potential to achieve. The festival will recognize a significant date in Nanaimo's history while figuratively and literally illuminating local arts and culture.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Luminous Paths: Nanaimo 150 & Beyond has an estimated total cost of \$270,200. A successful grant application would provide up to \$200,000 in funding to offset eligible expenditures and would allow the City to host a large-scale event to recognize 150 years of incorporation. The remaining \$70,200 is made up of in-kind staff time valued at \$47,200 and \$23,000 to be funded from the \$50,000 approved by Council for Nanaimo 150 at the 2023-DEC-01 Finance and Audit Committee meeting.

If the grant application is successful, the 2024-2028 Financial Plan would be amended to include the grant funding for the event. An unsuccessful grant application would result in the City scaling down the event to work within the original \$50,000 approved budget.

CONCLUSION

Luminous Paths: Nanaimo 150 & Beyond will recognize 150 years since the City was incorporated and held its first Council meeting on January 22, 1875. Commemorating 150 years since incorporation provides an opportunity to recognize the contributions of our City's cultural community, highlighting the diversity, vibrancy, and potential of our arts and culture sector as we

look to the future, strengthening collaboration and connection between the City of Nanaimo and community partners, leaders and residents. |

SUMMARY POINTS

- The City has submitted a grant application to the Building Communities through Arts and Heritage - Community Anniversaries Program which offers up to \$200,000 in funding.
- A successful grant application would provide up to \$200,000 in funding towards the community event: Luminous Paths: Nanaimo 150 & Beyond.
- Funding announcements are expected within 24 weeks of the application deadline.

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