

DATE OF MEETING JANUARY 20, 2025

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**SUBJECT BUILDING COMMUNITIES THROUGH ARTS AND HERITAGE – COMMUNITY ANNIVERSARIES PROGRAM**

## **OVERVIEW**

### **Purpose of Report:**

To update Council that the City received the Building Communities Through Arts and Heritage - Community Anniversaries Program grant for the Luminous Paths: Nanaimo's 150 & Beyond event to acknowledge Nanaimo's 150th anniversary since 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 as 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. The City requested \$200,000 in funding and was notified in late November that we had been granted \$46,100. |

## **DISCUSSION**

The City will host Luminous Paths: Nanaimo's 150 & Beyond, a winter art festival that is a celebration of light, art, land, and community. The festival will open with an event on 2025-JAN-22 in Maffeo Sutton Park, with performances by local musicians, interactive booths, food trucks, City of Nanaimo 150 merchandise, children's activities, and additional educational and promotional material to mark the date of the first Council meeting 150 years ago. Temporary light-based art installations will be on display in identified public spaces, encouraging visitors to

explore park and community spaces. Musicians and performers will be engaged in performances over the course of the evening at locations corresponding with temporary art installations. The HMCS Nanaimo plans to visit Nanaimo for several days at the beginning of the festival. Culture Staff and the Port of Nanaimo are working together to arrange berth for the vessel. The HMCS Nanaimo intends to offer focused outreach for visitors to view the vessel throughout the first weekend of the event.

Artists and cultural community partners will further be highlighted through various public engagement opportunities through the course of the festival, such as artist talks, tours, and educational workshops hosted within a variety of cultural spaces.

The temporary art installations will be available for viewing until the festival closing event in Maffeo Sutton Park on 2025-FEB-17 to complement Family Day events. The final event will focus on engaging families and youth, with performances by child-friendly acts.

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 commemorate a significant date in Nanaimo's history while figuratively and literally illuminating local arts and culture – Luminous Paths: Nanaimo's 150 & Beyond lights the way. |

## **FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

|The original estimated total cost of Luminous Paths: Nanaimo's 150 & Beyond was \$270,200, with the expectation of \$200,000 in funding through the Building Communities grant. With \$46,100 in funding received through grant, the total estimated cost of Luminous Paths: Nanaimo's 150 & Beyond has been changed to \$129,200. This total includes the \$46,100 Building Communities grant, in-kind staff time valued at \$47,200, and \$35,900 to be funded from the \$50,000 approved by Council for Nanaimo 150 at the 2023-DEC-01 Finance and Audit Committee meeting. An additional \$13,591 has been donated to the overall Nanaimo 150 budget. These funds were remaining from the Canada 150 celebrations and will be put towards a legacy public art project.

The 2024-2028 Financial Plan will be amended to include the grant funding for the event. |

## **CONCLUSION**

|Luminous Paths: Nanaimo 150 & Beyond commemorates 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 our community partners, leaders and residents. |

### **SUMMARY POINTS**

- The City has received a grant from the Building Communities through Arts and Heritage - Community Anniversaries Program in the amount of \$46,100, to offset costs related to the event, Luminous Paths: Nanaimo's 150 & Beyond.
- Luminous Paths: Nanaimo's 150 & Beyond is a winter art festival that is a celebration of light, art, land, and community, commemorating 150 years since the City held its first Council meeting on January 22, 1875.
- The festival will open with an event on 2025-JAN-22 in Maffeo Sutton Park and feature temporary light-based art installation which will remain on display until the closing event in Maffeo Sutton Park on Family Day, 2025-FEB-17.

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