

# STAFF REPORT TO COUNCIL

1100 Patricia Blvd. | Prince George, BC, Canada V2L 3V9 | [www.princegeorge.ca](http://www.princegeorge.ca)

**DATE:** May 15, 2024

**TO:** MAYOR AND COUNCIL

**NAME AND TITLE:** Andy Beesley, Director of Civic Facilities & Events

**SUBJECT:** Prince George Playhouse Theatrical Rigging Upgrade - Project Update

**ATTACHMENT(S):** Staff Report to Council dated June 4, 2021 titled "Prince George Playhouse Building Envelope and Rigging Upgrade".

## RECOMMENDATION(S):

1. That Council APPROVES increasing the budget for Project # 3351 – Playhouse Rigging Replacement from \$271,500 to \$356,500 with the additional \$85,000 to be funded by the Canada Community-Building Fund reserve for \$68,000 and the General Infrastructure Reinvestment Fund Reserve for \$17,000, as described in the report to council dated May 15, 2024 from the Director of Civic Facilities & Events, titled "Prince George Playhouse Theatrical Rigging Upgrade – Project Update".

## PURPOSE:

This report is to provide information on the Playhouse Rigging Upgrade project and to request the addition of \$85,000 in additional funding through a budget amendment increasing the total budget to \$356,500.

## BACKGROUND:

In 2021 Downstage Right Industries Ltd. and the Actsafe Safety Association completed assessments of the Playhouse theatrical rigging systems which identified safety concerns with some of the components. Through Rigging and Structural consultants, Administration developed a scope of work to initiate safety upgrades which includes items such as replacing the existing arbor systems with a newer Brickhouse style, bringing the fire curtain up to current code and safety upgrades for access to the gallery and grid level of the fly tower.

In June 2021, Council approved a total budget of \$271,500 to complete the upgrades. In June of 2022, a request for proposal resulted in pricing well over the project budget. With the escalation in material costs Administration reviewed the project scope and determined that the existing arbor systems could be repaired allowing safe operation at a reduced cost over replacement. In 2024 pricing submissions for the revised scope came in over budget. With the safety improvements under this project required for the continued use of the facility, Administration is seeking Council approval for a budget amendment increasing the budget to \$356,000.

## STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

This report supports the following myPG Community Goals and Priorities and Council's Strategic Priorities;

*City Government and Infrastructure Focus on meaningful communication and relationship development to advance shared priorities.*

- *Focus on meaningful communication and relationship development to advance shared priorities.*

*Social Health and Well-Being*

- *Maximize the quality of life for all residents.*

**FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:**

The additional budget necessary to repair and upgrade the theatrical rigging is \$85,000. This project is currently funded 80% by the Canada Community-Building Fund and 20% by the General Infrastructure Reinvestment Fund. Administration is proposing the same 80/20 split from these two reserves for the additional funds required.

**SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION:**

The council approved budget of \$271,500 was developed in 2021 to replace the rigging systems as well as upgrade safe access to these systems at the Prince George Playhouse. Escalating costs and availability of materials resulting from the pandemic has impacted the budget, in addition to the limitations of accessing qualified workers skilled in the theatrical rigging industry typically located in larger Cities. To complete the project, Administration seeks Council approval to amend the existing budget for Project #3351 Playhouse Rigging Replacement to a revised budget of \$356,500. The completion of this project will provide a functioning theatrical rigging system with operational safety systems in place that will serve the needs of the facility.

**RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:**

Andy Beesley, Director, Civic Facilities & Events

PREPARED BY: Dale Martens, Manager, Project Delivery and Maintenance

**APPROVED:**

Walter Babicz, City Manager

Meeting Date: 2024/05/27