

Date: November 21, 2024

To: **Mayor and Council.**

Name and title: Andy Beesley, Director Civic Facilities and Events

Subject: History of Arts and Culture Strategies, Policies and Procedures

Attachment(s):

1. 1997 Arts Policy and Action Plan
2. 2001 Public Art Policy
3. 2001 Public Art Policy Procedural Guidelines
4. 2007 Transforming Public Art Study
5. 2007 Public Art Inventory
6. 2007 Public Art Advisory Committee – ToR
7. 2011 Arts Administrative Procedure
8. 2019 Arts Cultural Mapping Report
9. 2020 DRAFT Downtown Arts Strategy

Recommendation(s):

That Council RECEIVES FOR INFORMATION the report dated November 21, 2024, from the Director of Civic Facilities and Events, titled “History of Arts and Culture Strategies, Policies and Procedures”.

Purpose:

At the September 25, 2024 Council meeting, Administration was directed to “return a report to Council as soon as practicable including historical information of the City’s arts strategies, procedures and policies”.

Background:

Documentation of the City’s arts strategies, procedures, policies, and reports date back to 1997 when Council approved the ‘City of Prince George Arts Policy’. There were numerous updates and changes throughout the years as listed below:

1997

- Arts Policy and Action Plan – rescinded in 2011

2001

- Public Art Policy
- Public Art Policy Procedural Guidelines

2007

- Transforming Public Art Study
- Public Art Inventory
- Public Art Advisory Committee – Terms of Reference

2011

- Arts Administrative Procedure

2019

- Arts Cultural Mapping Report

2020

- Downtown Arts Strategy (draft)

Arts and Culture are also mentioned in other City studies and reports as below:

- Official Community Plan (2011 and proposed current)
- Community Recreation, Social Health and Well-Being Service Delivery Plan (2021)
- Social Development Strategy Recommendations (2018)
- myPG Social Development Strategy

In 2018 Council identified, as a priority, the development of a Community Cultural Plan in collaboration with the Regional District of Fraser Fort George and local arts organizations. In July 2019, Council approved the shift from a Community Cultural Plan to a Downtown Arts Strategy due to the additional priority of the Civic Core Plan. The draft Downtown Arts Strategy was brought to Council in December 2021, however, the ability to finalize the draft was significantly impacted by the pandemic, and the context had changed.

Throughout 2024, staff have been connecting with other municipalities who have recently completed an arts &/or culture plan, to gain insight and feedback on the development and success of their plan. Administration is also carefully listening to, and working with, our arts and culture community partner groups to understand their priorities and plans in addition to focusing on council's priorities, including the recent direction to look at establishing an all-encompassing awards program for many categories, including arts and culture in the City.

Because a formal Arts and Culture plan is a significant undertaking involving many different components, in order to move this topic forward in an organized and results-based manner, Council may wish to consider directing administration:

- To focus on the end goal of creating a comprehensive Arts and Culture Policy for the City of Prince George, and
- Review all past strategies, procedures, policies, and reports related to this topic, and
- Meet with a wide range of interested parties throughout our City to gather ideas, expertise and a framework and action plans to create a new plan, and
- Return a report to Council in 2025 to show progress and to gather ongoing direction.

Strategic Priorities:

Social Health and Well-Being:

Maximize the quality of life for all residents

Economic Diversity and Growth:

Market Prince George as a place to invest, live, and visit.

City Government and Infrastructure:

Focus on meaningful communication and relationship development to advance shared priorities, Continue to improve processes and practices to support effective and efficient service delivery.

Summary and conclusion:

Since 1997, the City has identified Arts and Culture as an integral part of the community with the revisions of policies, procedures, and studies. In 2024, Administration has begun work on enhancing arts and culture in the City and will continue collaborating with our community partners in 2025.

Respectfully submitted:

Andy Beesley, Director Civic Facilities and Events
Prepared by: Debbie Heywood, Manager, Event Services

Approved:

Walter Babicz, City Manager

Meeting date: 2024/12/16