

# STAFF REPORT TO COUNCIL

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**DATE:** August 5, 2021

**TO:** MAYOR AND COUNCIL

**NAME AND TITLE:** Deanna Wasnik, Acting Director of Planning and Development Services

**SUBJECT:** Downtown Creative Arts Hub Grant Application Update

**ATTACHMENT(S):** Staff Report to Council dated September 24, 2020 regarding Grant Application for Downtown Creative Arts Hub – 1310 3rd Avenue

## RECOMMENDATION(S):

That Council RECEIVES FOR INFORMATION the report dated August 5, 2021 from the Acting Director of Planning and Development Services titled “Downtown Creative Arts Hub Grant Application Update”.

## PURPOSE:

This report is to advise Council that the grant funding application under the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program – Community, Culture and Recreation (ICIP - CCR) infrastructure sub-stream for the Prince George Downtown Creative Arts Hub project at 1310 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue has been unfunded.

## BACKGROUND:

On October 5, 2020, Council approved City Administration’s recommendation to submit a grant funding application for the Prince George Downtown Creative Arts Hub through the ICIP – CCR program.

The City of Prince George has been working with the Community Arts Council (CAC) of Prince George and District to explore alternatives to their currently leased location at Studio 2880. The CAC faces a number of challenges for service delivery at Studio 2880 due to the building’s age, layout, and location which limits universal access, public programming, and proximity to compatible uses.

A preferred new location for the CAC was identified at the existing City-owned 1310 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue building. A feasibility study was pursued to identify the redevelopment requirements for this location as a new creative arts hub to serve the Prince George region. The study informed the submission of a grant application to the ICIP - CCR for project funding that would facilitate design works in 2021, followed by construction in 2022 and 2023.

## STATUS UPDATE:

City Administration has been advised by the ICIP - CCR program that the Prince George Downtown Creative Arts Hub project at 1310 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue is unfunded.

The project will be reviewed by City Administration to explore opportunities to support community arts delivery and redevelopment within the downtown.

**SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION:**

City Administration has been working with the Community Arts Council of Prince George and District to relocate their facility at Studio 2880 to a new location and centre for the arts downtown at 1310 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue. A grant funding application was submitted to the ICIP – CCR program, but was unsuccessful in securing close to three quarters of the funding required for the \$5.62 million project. City Administration will be reviewing the project to identify opportunities to support the delivery of arts in the Prince George region.

**RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:**

Deanna Wasnik, Acting Director of Planning and Development Services

**PREPARED BY:** Laurie-Ann Kosec, Strategic Planner

**APPROVED:**

Walter Babicz, City Manager

Meeting Date: 2021/08/16