



Municipality of North Grenville

To: **Council**

Meeting Date: November 19, 2024

Subject: Advisory Committee Significant Resolution – Create an Arts Council

Report No: CAO-2024-023

Prepared by: Mary Remmig, Deputy Clerk

Recommendation(s)

THAT Council receives the Community Consultation Summary Report prepared by the Arts, Culture and Heritage Advisory Committee;

THAT, Council direct the Arts, Culture and Heritage Advisory Committee to determine a structure and begin identifying volunteers and/or a board of members by the end of the first Quarter of 2025;

THAT, following the Advisory Committee identifying a board of members, Council direct staff to provide administrative guidance to help with the process of incorporating as a non-profit organization, including assistance with legal, financial and administrative set up;

AND THAT Council direct staff on a baseline budget to include as part of the preliminary 2025 budget in financial support of the creation of a not-for-profit Arts Council in the year 2025.

Executive Summary

Purpose

- On behalf of the Arts, Culture and Heritage Advisory Committee (ACHAC), deliver their recommendations deriving from the Community Consultation Summary Report;
- To provide Council with an overview of steps for establishing a separate not-for-profit Arts Council as recommended by the Advisory Committee; and,

- Attain direction from Council on the next steps.

Key Findings

- An Arts Council can play a vital role in fostering and promoting arts and culture in North Grenville by supporting local arts, encouraging community engagement and advancing art-based economic development.
- An Arts Council is an organization dedicated to promoting, supporting and developing the arts within a specific community, region or sector. The arts which are promoted include visual arts, performing arts, literary arts, music and sometimes heritage initiatives.
- Key roles of an Arts Council include: providing grants and other funding opportunities to artists/art organizations and cultural projects, organizing and supporting events in support of the arts such as workshops and festivals. Advocacy for local artists, accommodate and promote professional development opportunities such as networking and training and working with the government or other stakeholders to shape public art or cultural policies.
- There are two primary models for establishing an Arts Council: a municipally-created Arts Council and an independent (non-profit) Arts Council. Both of these models have their own advantages and disadvantages.
- The Arts, Culture and Heritage Advisory Committee currently undertakes roles similar to that of an Arts Council i.e. providing feedback on funding opportunities.
- Although similar, the role of an Arts Council is more flexible than an Advisory Committee of Council when established as a not-for profit.
- Following public consultation in Fall 2023 the Advisory Committee recognizes the growing community interest in enhancing local arts and establishing a coordinated approach to supporting the arts.

Financial Implications

- A independent, not-for-profit Arts Council may request an annual budgetary contribution from the Municipality to support the local arts. A dedicated budget line, staff resources and potential capital costs are not required for a not-for-profit Arts Council but would need to be assessed if an Arts Council is municipally-created.
- Council may choose to support an Arts Council financially by providing meeting space and/or event spaces on an at need basis

Background/Analysis

At their meeting on June 25, the Arts, Culture and Heritage Advisory Committee passed the following motion:

Be it resolved:

THAT The Arts, Culture, and Heritage Advisory Committee hereby recommends the Council review and support the recommendations outlined

in the Community Consultation Summary Report for establishing an independent non-profit Arts Council;

AND THAT the Community Consultation Summary Report be forwarded to Council for consideration and endorsement;

AND THAT the Arts, Culture, and Heritage Advisory Committee further recommends that Council direct staff to provide the necessary support to implement these recommendations.

In October 2023, the Arts, Culture and Heritage Advisory Committee undertook public consultation to determine the local needs for an Arts Council. The Community Consultation Summary Report identifies five (5) key challenges with respect to Arts and Culture in North Grenville as identified through public consultation and outlines the discussion of the Advisory Committee in each challenge area. In the opinion of the Advisory Committee, the information and challenges outlined within the Summary Report clearly identify the need for a local Arts Council leading to the above recommendation to Council.

Upon research of other communities, it is not uncommon for a Municipality to have both an Advisory Committee and Arts Council focus on public arts. However, there are distinct differences between the two functions. For example, an Advisory Committee primarily focuses on advising the Municipal Council on matters relating to public art and ensuring public art proposals align with public art policies in which they help create through feedback. Whereas, an Arts Council focuses on supporting the local arts community as a whole through promotion of events, developing programming and administering application or guiding application processes for funding.

Additional research identifies the following as appropriate steps for establishing a Arts Council which is independent from the Municipality:

1. **Community Consultation and Engagement:** The municipality would begin by supporting community discussions to gauge interest in the formation of an independent Arts Council. This may include hosting public meetings, forming a steering committee, and engaging local artists and arts organizations.
2. **Structure and Composition:** Identify a board of members, composition and structure, volunteers and Terms of Reference for the Board.
3. **Support for Incorporation:** The municipality could offer guidance and support to help the steering committee incorporate as a non-profit organization, including assistance with legal, financial, and administrative setup.
4. **Initial Municipal Funding:** The municipality could provide start-up funding or in-kind support (e.g., meeting space, promotional assistance) to help the independent Arts Council get established.

5. **Formalized Partnership:** The municipality could explore the option of a formal partnership agreement with the independent Arts Council, providing ongoing support in exchange for alignment with municipal goals and priorities.
6. **Sustainability Planning:** The independent Arts Council would develop a sustainability plan, including fundraising strategies, grant applications, and long-term operational goals.

Relevance to Strategic Priorities

Strategic Pillar	2	A Strong, Connected, and Vibrant Community
Goal	2.2	Promote a Healthy Lifestyle
Key Action	2.2.3	Implement the Parks, Recreation and Culture (PRC) Master Plan.

Options and Discussion

1. Approve the recommendation
2. Do not approve the recommendation

In the opinion of the Arts, Culture and Heritage Advisory Committee, the initial step (Community Consultation and Engagement) to establishing an Arts Council has been undertaken. It is recommended, should Council support the Committee’s opinion to create an Arts Council, that Council direct the Advisory Committee to determine a composition and structure by the end of Q1 2025. At the direction of Council, this proposal can rise to Council for endorsement before proceeding to the next step.

If Council wishes to proceed on the recommendation to establish an Arts Council, staff seek Council’s direction to provide administrative guidance for the establishing of the Arts Council. This direction would be limited to advising on next steps in process of implementing the board. Once the board is in place, the Arts Council would be under the care and control of the local board.

Lastly, if Council feels this initiative requires an initial fiscal contribution from the Municipality in year 2025, staff seek Council’s direction for a baseline budget line in support of an Arts Council to include in the initial 2025 draft budget for Council’s consideration. As this is currently in the discussion stages of development, staff do not have enough information to advise on if this initiative will require a financial contribution from the Municipality in 2025.

Financial Impact

This item has been identified in the current budget: Yes No X N/A

This item is within the budgeted amount: Yes No X N/A

Staffing implications, as they relate to implementing staff’s recommendation on this matter, include the existing staff complement and applicable administrative policies as

approved by Council. As well as the initial Municipal contribution as determined by Council to include in the initial 2025 budget for consideration.

Internal/External Consultation

- Municipal Clerk
- Parks, Recreation & Tourism Staff
- Arts, Culture & Heritage Advisory Committee.

Communications

The Arts, Culture and Heritage Advisory Committee broadly publicized consultation opportunities through use of the Municipal Facebook page, the municipal website and the use of media releases.

Attachments

- Community Consultation Summary Report (Prepared by the Arts, Culture & Heritage Advisory Committee)