



P.O. Box 1749
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 3A5 Canada

Item No.
**Community Planning & Economic
Development Standing Committee**
January 23, 2014

TO: Chair and Members of Community Planning and Economic Development
Standing Committee

SUBMITTED BY: Original Signed by
Brad Anguish, Director, Community & Recreation Services

DATE: January 14, 2014

SUBJECT: Special Arts & Culture Advisory Committee Update

INFORMATION REPORT

ORIGIN

- April 11, 2013 - Motion of the Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee (CPED) recommending that Regional Council direct staff to establish an Ad Hoc Special Arts and Culture Advisory Committee (SACAC) in accordance with the standard terms of reference for HRM standing committees; and request a staff report be provided for the next meeting of the CPED outlining any budget implications, staff support plan, and provide the detailed Terms of Reference for review and recommendation by CPED for approval by Regional Council.
- April 30, 2013 – Motion of Regional Council directing staff to:
 1. Establish an AdHoc Special Arts and Culture Advisory Committee, in accordance with the Standard terms of reference for advisory committees and for a term not to exceed December 2013. The purpose of the AdHoc Committee is to advise, provide feedback and guidance to staff related to the following:
 - Best practice models for how municipalities have enabled and support strong links between the professional arts and culture sector and the municipality;
 - Best practice models and possible program directions HRM could undertake to support the professional arts and culture sector in HRM in support of the Regional Plan objectives and to inform the development of the Culture and Heritage Priority Plan;
 - Staff to report with recommendations, including any input received back from the advisory committee to the Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee for their review and consideration no later than December 31, 2013 in order to make recommendations to Regional Council in advance of the 2014-2015 budget process.

2. Further, that Regional Council direct the CPED Standing Committee to be both the nominating and appointing body for the AdHoc Committee and provide governance overview and direction to the work undertaken by the Committee.

3. And further, as there may be budget implications to support this committee, that Regional Council request a staff report be provided to the June meeting of CPED outlining any budget implications, staff support plan and detailed Terms of Reference for review and recommendation by CPED Standing Committee for approval by Regional Council.

- June 13, 2013 – Motion of CPED recommending that Halifax Regional Council adopt the proposed Terms of Reference for a new Special Arts and Culture Advisory Committee as outlined in Attachment 1 of the May 17, 2013 staff report.
- June 25, 2013 – Motion of Regional Council adopting the proposed Terms of Reference for a new Special Arts and Culture Advisory Committee (SACAC) as outlined in Attachment 1 of the staff report dated May 17, 2013.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

- *HRM Charter*, Section 21 (1) and 79 (1)
- CPED's Terms of Reference, Sec. 3.3 'Oversight of HRM's community building initiatives in the areas of arts, culture and recreations and related facilities strategies.'

BACKGROUND

In response to concerns related to the funding and support for professional arts organizations, on April 30, 2013, Regional Council approved the recommendation from CPED to establish an adHoc Special Arts and Culture Advisory Committee (SACAC). The terms of reference for the Committee were later approved by Regional Council on June 25, 2013.

The motion of Regional Council indicated that the mandate of the Committee was to be concluded no later than December 31, 2013, and that staff was to provide any input to CPED no later than December 31, 2013 in order to make recommendations to Regional Council in advance of the 2014-2015 budget process.

SACAC approved a recommendation memo and presented it to staff on December 13, 2013, thus enabling staff to provide this information report to CPED.

DISCUSSION

The report submitted by SACAC to staff on December 13, 2013 contains 3 primary recommendations and 23 detailed recommendations, including a detailed budget proposition. Staff is currently in the midst of reviewing and clarifying these recommendations in order to present recommendations to CPED.

The recommendations of the SACAC fall into three categories which can be broadly described as: (1) governance, (2) funding and program administration, and (3) corporate integration. Due to the broad scope of the SACAC recommendations, it is important to align the corresponding staff recommendations to the work currently underway on several other related objectives as they will inform or otherwise impact some of the recommendations. These include: the RP+5 Culture and Heritage chapter and related "Culture and Heritage Priorities Plan", the review of HRM's various grants and contributions programs, amendments to By-law T-200 concerning Tax Exemption, and receipt of the comparative analysis on cultural funding.

In particular, relative to the recommendations on municipal funding levels for arts and culture, staff has determined that a complete response must be structured in relation to a forthcoming comparative study in which HRM is currently participating - the MCI2 Comparative Cultural Investment Analysis conducted by Hill Strategies. This study will result in a comprehensive analysis of HRM's funding contribution to the arts and culture sector as compared to other, similar-sized, jurisdictions in Canada. The results of the study, and staff's analysis thereof, is important context for Council's consideration of the recommendations stemming from the SACAC work.

It is expected that the MCI2 study will be received early in February 2014, thereby enabling staff to present informed recommendations to CPED for consideration and direction to Regional Council in order to inform the 2014/15 budget.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial considerations to this report. Any financial considerations following from the SACAC recommendations will be outlined in detail in a forthcoming staff report to CPED.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Stakeholder engagement was undertaken by the SACAC during the course of their mandate.

ATTACHMENTS

None

A copy of this report can be obtained online at <http://www.halifax.ca/council/agendasc/cagenda.html> then choose the appropriate meeting date, or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 490-4210, or Fax 490-4208.

Report Prepared by: Jamie MacLellan, Public Art Facilitator, 490-1039

Report Approved by: Original Signed by
Denise Schofield, Manager, Regional Recreation & Culture 490-6252
