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Item No. 5
Halifax Regional Council
August 6, 2013

TO: Mayor Savage and Members of Regional Council

Original Signed by Director

SUBMITTED BY: _____
Greg Keefe, Director of Finance & Information Technology/CFO

DATE: July 22, 2013

SUBJECT: **Symphony Nova Scotia Request for Annual Funding**

INFORMATION REPORT

ORIGIN

January 15, 2013 – Petition submitted to Regional Council from Symphony Nova Scotia requesting HRM provide funding to the society on an annual basis.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

HRM Charter (2008) section 79(1)(av).

BACKGROUND

With the exception of cash grants to Neptune Theatre (City of Halifax) and Symphony Nova Scotia (City of Halifax/City of Dartmouth), municipal funding to professional arts organizations prior to amalgamation was primarily indirect through events funding. Currently the funding sectors and eligibility criteria of the *Community Grants Program* have been refined and formalized with a maximum funding threshold for project-specific and capital grants. Due to demand and budget capacity the *Community Grants Program* does not provide recurring annual operating grants. Typically, any recurring funding commitment has been provided at Council's discretion on a case-by-case basis under a contribution agreement. A contribution differs from a grant insofar as the funding agency (HRM) establishes the funding criteria and pre-determined outcomes. In some circumstances the funding agency might also set standards of practice and/or solicit interest through a public call for expressions of interest.

DISCUSSION

Community Grants Program: There is no immediate intent with respect to granting recurring annual operating funds to any non-profit sector or individual organization. It is anticipated that in 2014 the *Community Grants Program* will be reviewed with a view to engaging the Grants Committee in confirming either the continuation of the program's current format or amendments (eg. by sector funded, type of eligible project, value of grant etc).

Ad Hoc Arts & Culture Advisory Committee: Further to a motion at the April 11, 2013, meeting of the Community Planning & Economic Standing Committee, Regional Council established an ad hoc Special Arts & Culture Advisory Committee to review HRM's current arts and cultural service delivery and make recommendations to Council prior to December 31, 2013. It is anticipated that arts funding will be included in the scope of the committee's deliberations.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Not applicable. The petition to Regional Council applied to one non-profit organization and is not aligned with a specific municipal program.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

None.

ALTERNATIVES

Not applicable.

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.

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Report Approved by: _____

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