
To: Mayor and Council
From: Paul Gipps, CAO
Meeting Date: March 4, 2025
Meeting Type: Regular Council Meeting

Prepared by: Lauren Sanbrooks, Grant Funding Specialist
Department: Finance & Administration

Title: Canada Cultural Spaces Fund
Description: Canada Cultural Spaces Fund Grant Application

RECOMMENDATION

THAT a grant application to the Canada Cultural Spaces Fund, Department of Canadian Heritage to fund \$98,000 of the total project cost of \$200,000 for the purchase and installation of a sound system for the Creekside Theatre, be supported;
AND THAT if successful, the remaining portion of the project in the amount of \$102,000 be funded from Facilities Renewal Reserve;
AND THAT if successful, the 2025 Financial Plan be amended to include the receipt and expenditure of the grant funding.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Canada Cultural Spaces Fund (CCSF), administered by the Department of Canadian Heritage, Government of Canada, aims to improve the physical conditions of arts and heritage cultural spaces for creation, collaboration, presentation, preservation, and exhibition. It also focuses on increasing and improving access for Canadians, including Indigenous, under-represented, and equity groups, to arts and heritage cultural spaces within their communities. The CCSF supports these objectives through the creation of planning and design documents, feasibility studies, or facility assessments for the construction or renovation of arts or heritage spaces. Additionally, it funds the purchase of specialized equipment and the construction or renovation of arts and heritage cultural spaces, ensuring that these spaces are operated in a manner consistent with professional standards.

To be eligible for funding from the CCSF, the project must be the:

- purchase and/or renovation of an arts or heritage space;
- purchase and installation of specialized equipment for an arts or heritage space;
- completion of infrastructure planning projects, design documents, feasibility studies, or facility assessments for the renovation or construction of an arts or heritage space;
- construction of an arts or heritage space.

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS

The District will be applying to the Department of Canadian Heritage for funding through the Canada Cultural Spaces Fund to purchase and install sound equipment for the Creekside Theatre. The Creekside Theatre requires new sound equipment, as the current system is over 26 years old. The District has encountered multiple issues, including two instances where the sound system failed during live shows—once due to a malfunctioning amp and another time because of a broken soundboard. Upgrading the sound equipment is critical to ensuring smooth and reliable performances for both artists and audiences.

The project has faced delays for the past two years, primarily due to challenges with funding capacity. However, securing funding through the Canada Cultural Spaces Fund will allow the project to proceed in 2026. To further reduce the financial burden on taxpayers, the District of Lake Country collects Capital Improvement Fees (CIF) from

all users of the space. This revenue has grown significantly in recent years, from approximately \$8,000 to around \$17,000 annually, as a result of the increase in programming. Five years ago, the CIF was used to reduce the cost of the LED lighting upgrade at the Theatre. The CIF will be used to offset the cost of the sound system upgrade, reducing the impact on taxation.

Impacts on infrastructure, services or staff capacity

District staff will manage the application, administration and delivery enhancements under the Canada Cultural Spaces Fund.

Consultation and Communication

The application for the Canada Cultural Spaces Fund requires a certified Council resolution and has been reviewed and approved by the CAO and senior staff. Staff from Finance & Administration and Parks Recreation Culture & Facilities have been consulted on this grant application.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None Budget Previously Approved Other (see below)

The total cost of the project for purchasing and installing the sound system at Creekside Theatre is \$200,000. If approved, funding from the Canada Cultural Spaces Fund will help cover a portion of the costs, with the remaining amount to come from the Facilities Renewal Reserve.

COMMUNICATION

This application was referred to the CAO and internal departments.

ALTERNATE RECOMMENDATION(S)

THAT the application to the Canada Cultural Spaces Fund be referred back to staff for additional information as identified by Council.

Respectfully Submitted.

Lauren Sanbrooks, Grant Funding Specialist

Report Approval Details

Document Title:	Canada Cultural Spaces Fund.docx
Attachments:	
Final Approval Date:	Feb 24, 2025

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

Trevor James, CFO, Director of Finance & Administration - Feb 24, 2025 - 11:07 AM

Matt Vader, Director Parks, Recreation and Culture - Feb 24, 2025 - 11:16 AM

Reyna Seabrook, Director of Corporate Services - Feb 24, 2025 - 11:23 AM

Paul Gipps, Chief Administrative Officer - Feb 24, 2025 - 11:45 AM

Makayla Ablitt, Legislative & FOI Coordinator - Feb 24, 2025 - 12:10 PM