



The Corporation of the
City of Sault Ste. Marie

COUNCIL REPORT

June 23, 2025

TO: Mayor Matthew Shoemaker and Members of City Council
AUTHOR: Virginia McLeod, Manager of Recreation and Culture
DEPARTMENT: Community Development and Enterprise Services
RE: 2025 Arts and Culture Assistance Grants – Late Intake

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide recommendations to Council from the Cultural Vitality Committee for distribution of 2025 Arts and Culture Assistance Program grants for the late intake period.

Background

The Cultural Vitality Committee (CVC), on behalf of City Council, evaluates the applications utilizing the criteria outlined in the City's Arts and Culture Assistance Program guidelines and recommends the distribution of grant funds.

The Arts and Culture Assistance Program (ACAP) criteria was approved in 2021. The second intake opened in February and closed on March 28, 2025. The new guidelines provide funding support in line with the priorities identified in the Community Culture Plan 2019–2024 to foster the growth and development of the local arts and culture sector.

Analysis

Thirty-three eligible applications were submitted in the second intake period for funding in 2025, with requests totalling \$268,226. A summary of applications is attached. The total funding available annually for ACAP is \$170,000, which is divided equally between the two intake periods. The ACAP program identifies four types of grants: project, operational, festival/event, and cultural diversity or combination.

CVC members scored each of the applications out of 15 using one of the two evaluation rubrics; each has three assessment criteria:

Incorporated Non–profits:

1. Organizational and Financial Health
2. Artistic and/or Cultural Merit
3. Community Impact:

Unincorporated Collective/individual:

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1. Artistic and/or Cultural Merit
2. Community Impact
3. Viability or Project/Activity

The Cultural Vitality Committee met to review and assess the applications on three occasions: May 14, May 20, and May 29, 2025. The following resolutions were passed at the meeting of May 20, 2025:

Resolved that the Cultural Vitality Committee recommend to City Council the following grants for the 2025 Arts and Culture Assistance Program – Late Intake as follows:

- Centre Francophone – \$5,000
- SSM Chamber of Commerce – \$6,000
- Sault Community Theatre Centre – \$5,900
- Algoma Arts Festival Association – \$7,000
- Over the Rainbow – \$6,000
- Friends of Ermatinger Clergue National Historic Site – \$6,000
- Living History Algoma – \$5,825
- Sault Film Festival – \$5,000
- Sault Malayalee Association – \$5,900

Resolved that the Cultural Vitality Committee recommend to City Council the following grants for the 2025 Arts and Culture Assistance Program – Late Intake as follows:

- The Klub – \$6,000

Resolved that the Cultural Vitality Committee recommend to City Council the following grants for the 2025 Arts and Culture Assistance Program – Late Intake as follows:

- Annie King – \$2,090
- Christopher Shoust – \$2,300
- Goldie Barzan – \$2,265
- Grocer 4 Good – \$2,090
- Isa Michaud – \$2,375
- John Paul Chalykoff – \$1,980
- Josh Norling – \$2,300
- Matt Warnock – \$2,430
- Michael Burtch – \$1,185
- Skye Smith - \$2,360

The following resolution was passed at the meeting of May 29, 2025:

Resolved that the Cultural Vitality Committee recommend to City Council the following grants for the 2025 Arts and Culture Assistance Program – Late Intake as follows:

- Musical Comedy Guild – \$5,000

Financial Implications

A total of \$170,000 is included in the City’s operating budget for financial assistance as per the City’s cultural policy on providing arms-length funding of culture. There is \$85,000 remaining to distribute during this intake period.

Strategic Plan / Policy Impact / Climate Impact

Corporate Strategic Plan Focus Area: Quality of Life – Arts and Culture – Support and grow the creative economy and celebrate arts and culture.

Recommendation

It is therefore recommended that Council take the following action:

Resolved that the report of the Manager of Recreation and Culture dated June 23, 2025 concerning 2025 Arts and Culture Assistance Program Grants – Late Intake allocation of funds be approved as follows:

1. Centre Francophone – \$5,000
2. SSM Chamber of Commerce – \$6,000
3. Sault Community Theatre Centre – \$5,900
4. Algoma Arts Festival Association – \$7,000
5. Over the Rainbow – \$6,000
6. Friends of Ermatinger Clergue National Historic Site – \$6,000
7. Living History Algoma – \$5,825
8. Sault Film Festival – \$5,000
9. Sault Malayalee Association – \$5,900
10. The Klub – \$6,000
11. Annie King – \$2,090
12. Christopher Shoust – \$2,300
13. Goldie Barzan – \$2,265
14. Grocer 4 Good – \$2,090
15. Isa Michaud – \$2,375
16. John Paul Chalykoff – \$1,980

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17. Josh Norling – \$2,300
18. Matt Warnock – \$2,430
19. Michael Burtch – \$1,185
20. Skye Smith – \$2,360
21. Musical Comedy Guild – \$5,000

Respectfully submitted,

Virginia McLeod
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