



The Corporation of the
City of Sault Ste. Marie

COUNCIL REPORT

March 17, 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 – Early Intake

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide recommendations to the City Council from the Cultural Vitality Committee for the distribution of the 2025 Arts and Culture Assistance Program grants for the early 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 first intake for 2025 funding closed on October 25, 2024. The second intake opened in February and will close 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

Twenty-two applications were submitted in the first intake period for funding in 2025, with requests totalling \$197,966.47. A summary of applications is attached. The total funding available annually for ACAP has increased to \$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 four occasions: November 20, 2024, February 3, 2025, February 6, 2025, and February 20, 2025. The following resolutions were passed at the February 20, 2025, meeting:

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

- 5.7 Rebeka Herron – \$2,526.82
- 5.3 DJ Seith – \$2,510.16
- 5.8 Sarah Skagen – \$2,494.50
- 5.5 Joseph Schlapsi – \$2,376.87
- 5.6 Michael Naphan – \$2,369.21
- 5.1 Algoma Writer’s Collective – \$2,293.57
- 5.10 Tania Daigle – \$2,279.24
- 5.12 Haus of Gore – \$6,397.71
- 5.11 Sault Blues Society – \$1,677.29
- 5.15 Sault Symphony Orchestra – \$5,848.00
- 5.14 Algoma Conservatory of Music – \$12,771.00
- 5.16 Piecing It Together Shows – \$9,829.12
- 5.18 Thinking Rock Community Arts – \$8,320.50
- 5.19 Black Fly Jam – \$11,266.00
- 5.21 Bawating Babes 2Spirit Organising Committee – \$12,040.00

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. The first intake of ACAP applications will distribute up to 50% of the total allocation, with the remainder to be distributed during the second intake period. A total of \$84,999.99 will be distributed during the first intake.

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 March 17, 2025, concerning the 2025 Arts and Culture Assistance Program Grants – Early Intake allocation of funds be approved as follows:

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1. Rebeka Herron – \$2,526.82
2. DJ Seith – \$2,510.16
3. Sarah Skagen – \$2,494.50
4. Joseph Schlapsi – \$2,376.87
5. Michael Naphan – \$2,369.21
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7. Tania Daigle – \$2,279.24
8. Haus of Gore – \$6,397.71
9. Sault Blues Society – \$1,677.29
10. Sault Symphony Orchestra – \$5,848.00
11. Algoma Conservatory of Music – \$12,771.00
12. Piecing It Together Shows – \$9,829.12
13. Thinking Rock Community Arts – \$8,320.50
14. Black Fly Jam – \$11,266.00
15. Bawating Babes 2Spirit Organising Committee – \$12,040.00

Respectfully submitted,

Virginia McLeod
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