

Municipality of Chatham-Kent
Community Human Services Department
Information Report

To: Mayor and Members of Council

From: April Rietdyk,
General Manager, Community Human Services

Date: February 6, 2020

Subject: Arts and Culture representation at National Indigenous Arts Festival

This report is for the information of Council.

Background

The Arts and Culture division for the Municipality of Chatham-Kent has been chosen to be a part of a select Ontario Presents delegation for the 2020 Talking Stick Festival in Vancouver, BC from February 21-25, 2020. Ontario Presents will provide 100% coverage for all expenses in connection with this event, which the Manager of Arts and Culture will attend.

Comments

The Municipal Corporate Travel and Business Related Expenses Policy states “Council shall be informed of all travel out of the province prior to departure, if acting on behalf of the Municipality of Chatham-Kent or being paid by the Municipality.”

Full Circle’s Talking Stick Festival, now in its 18th year, began as a way to showcase and celebrate Indigenous art and performance to a wider audience. Now attracting over 20,000 attendees each year and still growing, they are noted as being the premier, multi-disciplinary Indigenous arts festival in North America. With a desire to appeal to Indigenous and non-Indigenous attendees alike, their programming focuses on the diversity of visual arts, dance, theatre, music, Pow Wow and film in both traditional and contemporary formats.

The Arts and Culture division of Community Attraction and Leisure Services comprises the Capitol Theatre, Kiwanis Theatre, Thames Art Gallery, ARTspace, Chatham-Kent Museum, and the Milner and Ridge House museums. A key goal of the division is to build on the synergies between our venues and genres with thought-provoking, multidisciplinary offerings. Indigenous art and artists are featured regularly at the Thames Art Gallery, and it would be beneficial for our Theatres and Museums to offer complementary programming in order to attract a more diverse audience to our spaces, and to foster an awareness of Indigenous art forms and issues. Talking Stick Festival will provide an opportunity to experience a wide range of multidisciplinary Indigenous

Theatre programming, including school shows, and form alliances with like-minded presenters to book mini-tours in order to share expenses.

The Manager of Arts and Culture will submit a report to Ontario Presents at the conclusion of the festival, and an update report will also be brought forward to Council following the event.

Consultation

The Director of Community Attraction and Leisure services has approved the attendance of the Manager of Arts and Culture at this Festival.

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications to attend the Talking Stick Festival as all expenses will be covered by Ontario Presents.

Prepared by:



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Attachments: none

c. Evelyn Bish, Director, Community Attraction and Leisure Services

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