

Janzen, Heather

From: City Council
Subject: FW: Email - Communication - Travis Cole - Urgent Appeal for the Reconsideration of Funding Freeze under Community Support - CK 1700-1

From: Web NoReply <web-noreply@Saskatoon.ca>
Sent: Friday, November 24, 2023 3:01 PM
To: City Council <City.Council@Saskatoon.ca>
Subject: Email - Communication - Travis Cole - Urgent Appeal for the Reconsideration of Funding Freeze under Community Support - CK 1700-1

--- Replies to this email will go to executive@pavedarts.ca ---

Submitted on Friday, November 24, 2023 - 15:01

Submitted by user: [REDACTED]

Submitted values are:

I have read and understand the above statements.: Yes

I do not want my comments placed on a public agenda. They will be shared with members of Council through their online repository.: No

I only want my comments shared with the Mayor or my Ward Councillor.: No

Date: Friday, November 24, 2023

To: His Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council

Pronouns: He/him/his

First Name: Travis

Last Name: Cole

Phone Number : [REDACTED]

Email: executive@pavedarts.ca

Address: 424 20th Street West

Neighbourhood: [Riversdale](#)

City: Saskatoon

Province: Saskatchewan

Postal Code: S7M 0X4

Name of the organization or agency you are representing (if applicable): 107842288RR01

What do you wish to do ?: Submit Comments

What meeting do you wish to speak/submit comments ? (if known):: November 28 – 30 Budget Deliberations

What agenda item do you wish to comment on ?: Community Support 2024-2025 Business Plan and Budget
CCB2023-1104 GPC023-0616

Comments:

Subject: Urgent Appeal for the Reconsideration of Funding Freeze under Community Support

Dear Esteemed Members of City Council,

I trust this letter finds you well. I am writing to you today in my capacity as the Executive Director at PAVED Arts, a non-profit, artist-run center with a rich history and a steadfast commitment to supporting contemporary media arts in Saskatoon.

Our mission at PAVED Arts is to serve as a hub for the production, presentation, research, and dissemination of contemporary media arts in the city. We are driven by a commitment to support artists working in these media forms at the local, regional, and national levels.

In line with our mandate, PAVED Arts operates both an access and production center for media and new media creation and a presentation center that showcases and disseminates contemporary visual, media, and new media art through various modes. We take pride in offering programs and activities that cater to a broad spectrum of artists and community members.

Our free exhibitions in the main gallery, media gallery, window gallery, and billboard provide a platform for artists to showcase their work to the public. Additionally, community programs such as Mic Drop, a drop-in youth program for writing and recording spoken word, rap, and hip-hop, exemplify our commitment to fostering creativity and expression.

Our production center offers affordable rental rates for media art equipment and facilitates bookings in our specialized suites, including the Photo Suite, Audio Suite, Video Suite, and Darkroom. Through these facilities, we empower artists and independent producers to create and exhibit their work, contributing to the cultural richness of Saskatoon.

It is with deep concern that I address the recent decision made at the August 15, 2023 Special Budget meeting to impose an overall funding freeze under Community Support. This freeze poses a significant threat to the flourishing arts community in Saskatoon, particularly impacting organizations like ours that play a pivotal role in nurturing and showcasing local talent.

The arts sector, already grappling with the aftermath of the pandemic and rising costs, now faces an additional challenge with funding freezes such as this. In fact, we have been flat lined budgetarily by the provincial government for over a decade, and have seen budget cuts from our federal funding body recently as well. These adverse effects will not only be felt by organizations like PAVED Arts but will reverberate throughout the broader community, limiting access to cultural experiences and hindering the growth of our city's vibrant arts scene.

I implore you to reconsider the decision to freeze funding under Community Support, with special consideration for programs like ours that contribute immensely to the cultural fabric of Saskatoon. The positive impact of the arts on our community's quality of life cannot be overstated, and an investment in organizations like PAVED Arts is an investment in the future well-being, prosperity, and retention of the cultural community in our city.

I am available for further discussion and to provide any additional information that may assist in your reconsideration of this matter. Your support in preserving and enhancing the cultural vibrancy of Saskatoon is greatly appreciated.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Travis Cole
Executive Director
PAVED Arts

Will you be submitting a video to be vetted prior to council meeting?: No