

Janzen, Heather

From: City Council
Subject: FW: Email - Communication - Jen Budney - Ukrainian Museum of Canada - Community Support 2024-2025 Business Plan and Budget - CK 1700-1

From: Web NoReply <web-noreply@Saskatoon.ca>
Sent: Monday, November 27, 2023 4:10 PM
To: City Council <City.Council@Saskatoon.ca>
Subject: Email - Communication - Jen Budney - Ukrainian Museum of Canada - Community Support 2024-2025 Business Plan and Budget - CK 1700-1

--- Replies to this email will go to [REDACTED] ---

Submitted on Monday, November 27, 2023 - 16:10

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: Monday, November 27, 2023

To: His Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council

Pronouns: She/her/hers

First Name: Jen

Last Name: Budney

Phone Number : [\(306\) 244-3800](tel:3062443800)

Email: [REDACTED]

Address: [REDACTED] Bedford Road

Neighbourhood: [Caswell Hill](#)

City: Saskatoon

Province: Saskatchewan

Postal Code: [REDACTED]

Name of the organization or agency you are representing (if applicable): Ukrainian Museum of Canada

What do you wish to do ?: Submit Comments

What meeting do you wish to speak/submit comments ? (if known):: Nov 28-30 budget deliberations

What agenda item do you wish to comment on ?: Budget Agenda item 7.2.10.

Comments:

Dear City Council Members,

I hope this message finds you well. I'm Jen Budney, the Executive Director and CEO of the Ukrainian Museum of Canada. I'm reaching out on behalf of the board, staff, members, and visitors of the museum to discuss our concerns about the recent decision to freeze funding under Community Support, affecting cultural organizations like ours.

Our museum is not just about history and heritage -- we are actively involved in the community. We work with kids, at-risk youth, hospital patients, seniors, and newcomers, offering workshops, lectures, and events that bring people together. We are a community centre, a meeting place, a place for education, a place for learning, and an art gallery, all in one. In the last year, we have been featured on CBC's As It Happens, we've collaborated with Saskatoon Opera, worked with palliative care patients and doctors at St. Paul's Hospital, hosted a free summer camp for Ukrainian newcomers, and held free workshops for the kids at Core Neighbourhood Youth Workshop, as well as hosted a Citizenship Ceremony and a tea and discussion with the American Ambassador to Canada - and much, much more!

The arts took a big hit with pandemic, and now the rising costs of living and supplies are making things tougher. Expenses for our programs continue to rise. To keep doing what we do, we need to make sure our staff members (5 F/T and 2 P/T, including two Ukrainians displaced from the war) are taken care of with fair wages that keep pace with the times. My staff are not highly paid - cost-of-living increases are the least they deserve.

As you may know, since the Museum came under new leadership in May 2022, we have been getting more and more requests to collaborate with other organizations, which is great, but we need the resources to keep up. A funding freeze not only hampers our growth but also makes it difficult to maintain our current level of community engagement. We are in a period of growth, and we need to count on all current sources of funding.

If Saskatoon itself wants to attract growth opportunities, it must have a thriving cultural sector, one where many arts organizations of different sizes and types play active roles in the cultural ecosystem. We need more money, not a freeze. Please consider an increase in arts funding, which will have such a positive effect on the residents of Saskatoon and everyone who visits our beautiful city.

Thank you for your time and dedication.

Best regards,
Jen Budney
Executive Director and CEO
Ukrainian Museum of Canada

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