

Janzen, Heather

From: City Council
Subject: FW: Email - Communication - Breanne Harmon - Persephone Theatre - Letter in Support - Community Support 2024-2025 Business Plan and Budget - CK 1700-1
Attachments: City Council Budget Discussion - Inflationary Increase for Grants to Community (Persephone Theatre).pdf

From: Web NoReply <web-noreply@Saskatoon.ca>
Sent: Monday, November 27, 2023 3:42 PM
To: City Council <City.Council@Saskatoon.ca>
Subject: Email - Communication - Breanne Harmon - Persephone Theatre - Letter in Support - Community Support 2024-2025 Business Plan and Budget - CK 1700-1

--- Replies to this email will go to breanne.h@persephonetheatre.org ---

Submitted on Monday, November 27, 2023 - 15:41

Submitted by user: Anonymous

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: Breanne

Last Name: Harmon

Phonetic spelling of first and/or last name: BREE-ANN

Phone Number : [3063842126](tel:3063842126)

Email: breanne.h@persephonetheatre.org

Address: 100 Spadina Crescent East

City: Saskatoon

Province: Saskatchewan

Postal Code: S7K 0L3

Name of the organization or agency you are representing (if applicable): Persephone Theatre

What do you wish to do ?: Submit Comments

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

Comments:

Please see attached letter in support of the inflationary increase for the Culture Grant Program. Many thanks.

Attachments:

- [City Council Budget Discussion - Inflationary Increase for Grants to Community \(Persephone Theatre\).pdf](#)152.29 KB

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

November 27, 2023

Subject: City Council Budget Discussion – Inflationary Increase for Grants to Community

Dear Members of City Council,

As the Executive Director of Persephone Theatre, I am writing to encourage you to reconsider the decision made at the August 15, 2023 Special Budget meeting to have an overall funding freeze under *Community Support* for grant funding. Our organization, along with numerous other arts and culture organizations in the city, receives funding through the Culture Grant Program; this grant program is included under Community Support and will be negatively impacted by a funding freeze.

The arts and culture sector has been hit particularly hard by the pandemic, and getting back to a place of “normal” looks very different for our sector than many others. The loss of recovery and reopening funding, coupled with the significant increases to the cost of living and materials, has made it all the more challenging to continue to produce and create meaningful art in a sustainable way in the city of Saskatoon. Costs to produce arts programming have risen exponentially. In some cases, this increase is as much as 100% from previous years. It is also becoming significantly harder to maintain fair and equitable salaries and work opportunities, and to retain staff in the arts sector in Saskatoon, due to the sheer cost of inflation. If we continue to see a rise in inflation with no additional support, we will continue to see more arts workers leaving our sector, or city altogether.

The support our organization receives from the City of Saskatoon is valued and deeply appreciated. Any increase to arts funding will have a positive impact on the community as a whole, and the quality of life in Saskatoon.

If you have any questions, or would like to speak further, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Kindly,



Breanne Harmon
Executive Director
Persephone Theatre