

Janzen, Heather

From: City Council
Subject: FW: Email - Communication - Rowman Pantel - On The Boards Staging Company - Community Support 2024-2025 Business Plan and Budget - CK 1700-1
Attachments: Budget Agenda item 7.2.10. - City Council Meeting- On The Boards.pdf

From: Web NoReply <web-noreply@Saskatoon.ca>
Sent: Monday, November 27, 2023 4:30 PM
To: City Council <City.Council@Saskatoon.ca>
Subject: Email - Communication - Rowman Pantel - On The Boards Staging Company - Community Support 2024-2025 Business Plan and Budget - CK 1700-1

--- Replies to this email will go to rowan@ontheboards.ca ---

Submitted on Monday, November 27, 2023 - 16:21

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: Rowan

Last Name: Pantel

Phonetic spelling of first and/or last name: ROW-ANNE. PAN-TELL

Phone Number : [REDACTED]

Email: rowan@ontheboards.ca

Address: [REDACTED] Ave J South

Neighbourhood: [King George](#)

City: Saskatoon

Province: Saskatchewan

Postal Code: [REDACTED]

Name of the organization or agency you are representing (if applicable): On The Boards Staging Company

What do you wish to do ?: Submit Comments

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

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

Comments:

November 28 – 30. Letter to City Council for Community Support funding that occurred at the August 15, 2023 Special Budget meeting was for an overall funding freeze to a variety of community grants including the Culture Grant Program. Funding for Community Support is included on the Budget Agenda in Line Item 7.2.10. Please see our attached letter to support removal of the funding Freeze.

Attachments:

- [Budget Agenda item 7.2.10. - City Council Meeting- On The Boards.pdf](#) 75.07 KB

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

ON THE BOARDS

S H A R I N G T H E S T A G E

November 27, 2023

Dear Members of City Council,

We, Rowan Pantel and Kenn McLeod, Co-Executive Directors of On The Boards Staging Company, are writing to express our deep concern about the decision made during the August 15, 2023, Special Budget meeting to implement an overall funding freeze under the Community Support for grant funding.

The Culture Grant Program, a crucial component of the Community Support initiative, has been instrumental in supporting On The Boards Staging Company's mission to provide affordable and accessible space for independent artists and art producers in Saskatoon throughout the year. The recent decision to impose a funding freeze poses a significant threat to our ability to contribute to the cultural vibrancy of Saskatoon.

The performing arts sector has been severely impacted by the pandemic, and despite our ongoing efforts to rebuild, full recovery to our 2019 numbers is not expected until 2025. The sector is grappling with increased costs of living, making it challenging to sustain competitive salaries and job opportunities. This situation could potentially lead to a talent drain from the arts sector in Saskatoon and closure of many of the arts organizations.

The support we receive from the City of Saskatoon is indispensable, playing a vital role in enriching the cultural fabric and overall quality of life in our community. On The Boards Staging Company is more than just a venue for theatre, dance, and music; we are a hub for creativity and collaboration, welcoming performers of all ages. Our work significantly contributes to the quality of life citizens enjoy in Saskatoon, adding to the uniqueness and vitality of our city.

While we understand the difficult decisions the City Council faces in budgetary matters, we implore you to reconsider the funding freeze on Community Support grants, particularly those directed towards the arts. Investing in the arts is an investment in the well-being of our community. The positive impact of increased arts funding will extend far beyond the cultural sector, positively influencing the social and economic dynamics of Saskatoon.

On The Boards Staging Company

Mail: % 640 Ave J South, Saskatoon, SK S7M 2B1 / Performance Space: 609 Dufferin Ave Saskatoon, SK
www.ontheboards.ca info@ontheboards.ca 306-249-1975

ON THE BOARDS

S H A R I N G T H E S T A G E

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. We kindly request that you review and reconsider the decision made in August, recognizing the invaluable role that the arts play in enhancing the vitality and uniqueness of our city. We look forward to continued collaboration and support from the City of Saskatoon in fostering a vibrant and resilient arts community.

Sincerely,

Rowan Pantel & Kenn McLeod
Co-Executive Directors
On The Boards Staging Company
info@ontheboards.ca
306-249-1975
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