

2025 Cultural Grant Capital Reserve Awards

ISSUE

The Cultural Grant Capital Reserve Assessment Committee is recommending 2025 funding of \$100,000 from the Cultural Grant Capital Reserve, as per Council Policy C03-003, Reserves for Future Expenditures, to three organizations, as identified in this report.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Standing Policy Committee on Planning, Development and Community Services recommend to City Council that capital project funding recommended by the Cultural Grant Capital Reserve Assessment Committee, for 2025, as outlined in this report, be approved.

BACKGROUND

The City of Saskatoon's Cultural Grant Capital Reserve was created in 2010 to provide funding for periodic one-time capital projects to organizations currently receiving funding under the Culture Grant Program. In 2013, City Council approved several amendments to the program. The annual provision to the reserve is authorized by City Council through annual approval of the Business Plan and Budget. Since 2016, the annual contribution has been \$100,000 for the Cultural Grant component and \$20,000 for the Public Art component.

The recommendation for the allocation of funds is made by the Cultural Grant Capital Reserve Assessment Committee, in accordance with criteria outlined in [Council Policy C03-003, Reserves for Future Expenditures](#). Allocation of funds from the Reserve shall be adjudicated by the Cultural Grant Capital Reserve Adjudication Committee, comprised of three members from the art, festival or heritage organizations who are receiving funding through the Cultural Grant Program and who are not applying for the capital funding being adjudicated, and a City representative with project management expertise. There were nine applications received requesting 2025 funding by the October 1, 2024, deadline. The Cultural Grant Capital Reserve Assessment Committee met on November 15, 2024, and recommends funding to three applicants, as identified in this report. Applicants can receive a grant for up to 50% of their total project costs.

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS

The Cultural Grant Capital Reserve has an unallocated balance of \$469,232.43 available in 2025. All project applications were reviewed by the Cultural Grant Capital Reserve Assessment Committee, the following awards are recommended:

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Major Grants	Award
Saskatchewan Jazz Festival Inc.: To undergo a complete rebranding necessitated by the end of the SaskTel title sponsorship agreement following the 2025 festival.	\$ 72,574. Represents 42% of total project cost
Saskatoon Jazz Society: To install an HVAC system at The Bassment, ensuring a safe and comfortable environment for patrons and performers.	\$ 20,000 Represents 40% of total project cost
Total	\$ 92,574

Minor Grants	Award
On the Boards Staging: To purchase a new lighting board to replace current equipment which was purchased in 2010.	\$ 7,426 Represents 50% of total project cost
Total	\$ 7,426
Grand Total	\$100,000

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Funding for the 2025 Cultural Grant Capital Reserve Awards is allocated from the Cultural Grant Capital Reserve. There are sufficient funds available to proceed with awarding the grant funding as identified in this report. If approved, the remaining balance of the Cultural Grant component of the reserve will be \$369,232.43.

OTHER IMPLICATIONS

There are no policy, environmental, privacy, or CPTED implications or considerations

NEXT STEPS

Pending City Council approval, the three projects identified to receive funding are scheduled to be completed by July 2, 2026.

REPORT APPROVAL

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SP/2024/CS/PDCS/2025 Cultural Grant Capital Reserve Awards/mt