

## Staff Report

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**Report To:** City Council  
**Report From:** Kate Allan, Director of Corporate Services  
**Meeting Date:** July 19, 2021  
**Report Code:** CR-21-073  
**Subject:** Canada Community Revitalization Fund

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### Recommendations:

THAT in consideration of Staff Report CR-21-073 respecting Canada Community Revitalization Fund, City Council:

1. Directs staff to submit the application as summarized in the report; and
2. Should approval for funding be granted, directs staff to bring forward a by-law to authorize the Mayor and Clerk to enter into a funding agreement with FedDev Ontario.

### Highlights:

- The TOM is committed to welcoming and inspiring people of all representations, ages, backgrounds, and abilities.
- The 2021 facility report identified critical challenges including the entrance steps and ramp, the elevator, and visible signage.
- Canada Community Revitalization fund will grant up to 75% or \$750,000 towards projects that revitalize assets and bring people back to public spaces safely.

### Strategic Plan Alignment:

[Strategic Plan](#) Priority: Collaborative City - KR3 - Increase competitive grant funding dollars received annually

## **Background:**

The Canada Community Revitalization Fund was announced on June 23, 2021. A one-time scheduled intake will focus on eligible projects that are ready to proceed. The Canada Community Revitalization Fund (CCRF) aims to help communities across Canada build and improve community infrastructure projects so that they can rebound from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. The national investment is \$500 million and aims to fund projects that:

- Builds new community infrastructure and revitalizes existing assets
- Bring people back to public spaces safely as health measures ease
- Creates jobs and stimulates local economies

Eligible projects will be prioritized in the following order:

- revitalize downtown cores and main streets
- reinvent outdoor spaces
- create green infrastructure
- increase the accessibility of community spaces

Examples provided by the funding agency are as follows:

- downtown cores and main streets
- green projects and projects that reduce environmental impacts
- improvement of accessibility
- farmers' markets
- community and cultural centres
- museums and libraries
- public outdoor community sports facilities and spaces
- waterfront and tourism facilities
- multi-purpose centres
- other existing community facilities for public benefit that have a local community impact and underpin local economies

The programs specifically exclude costs associated with operational activities including maintenance, purchase of fleet assets and or the purchase of land or buildings.

Applications are due June 23, 2021.

## **Analysis:**

Staff met on June 30, 2021, to discuss potential projects. Several prospective projects from existing capital plans were put forward including the Downtown River Precinct multi-phase upgrades along the inner harbour, interior enhancements at the Bayshore Community Centre, and upgrades to the electrical and other fixtures at Kelso Beach Park.

Ultimately staff agreed that the most appropriate project to meet the eligibility requirements of the program would be improvements to the existing TOM Thomson Art Gallery addressing the accessible ramp and entrance, replacement of the elevator including the shaft, and signage for the gallery to promote exhibitions and gallery events.

Removing barriers to public access will result in more visitors; cultivating new members, donors, and supporters for the Art Gallery in addition to fostering tourism in Owen Sound. Many of the Gallery's long-time supporters are within the senior demographic and they find navigating the Gallery difficult. Creating better accessibility also allows the Gallery to develop collaborative relationships with community organizations and to apply for project funding to support those initiatives.

The implementation of a new larger sign will allow the Gallery to better promote exhibitions, programs, and events to attract more visitors which will result in greater revenue for the organization. The sign will also play a key role in supporting annual fundraising initiatives, including the film series and art auction, which are major revenue generating programs for the Gallery.

Staff acknowledges that the facility is currently being considered for expansion however, the investment into accessibility elements is required no matter what the future use of the facility may be. Also, this investment will ensure the Gallery can continue to operate and be open to all members of the community and visitors to Owen Sound until the expansion project is completed.

As this project has not previously been presented in a five-year capital plan, per FS23 Grants Policy, Council approval must be granted in advance of submitting a grant application.

## **Financial Implications:**

A full cost estimate will be refined before submission of the grant application and the City's share of costs will be included in the 2022 capital plan to be

funded from the total capital levy. At the time of writing this report estimates are being solicited. Staff preliminary estimates total \$600,000 which would require \$150,000 or 25% to be borne by the capital levy. The total capital levy with a dedicated 1% increase is estimated to be \$3,000,000 for 2022.

### **Communication Strategy:**

Ultimately public communication for federal grants is managed by the funding source. The recommendation in this report includes authorization to enter into a funding agreement should the grant be awarded.

### **Consultation:**

Senior Leadership Team

Director and Chief Curator Tom Thomson Art Gallery

### **Attachments:**

None

### **Recommended by:**

Kate Allan, Director of Corporate Services

### **Submission approved by:**

Tim Simmonds, City Manager

For more information on this report, please contact Kate Allan, Director of Corporate Services at [kallan@owensound.ca](mailto:kallan@owensound.ca) or 519-376-4440 ext 1238.