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REPORT TO ARTS COMMITTEE
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, MAY 13, 2009

SUBJECT

Report on the joint Arts Committee/Arts Advisory Council working group meeting examining the 2005 RASP implementation, Vision Mission Goals, and whether a governance review is warranted.

PURPOSE/ISSUE

To report on the recommendation of the joint working group's meeting of April 29, 2009

HISTORY/BACKGROUND

In 2008 a discussion was initiated within the Arts Committee to review the governance structure of the Arts Development Service. At the Arts Committee meeting of April 9, 2009 various views were expressed as to the purpose and rationale for such a review. At that meeting a motion was passed to strike a joint group of the Arts Committee and Arts Advisory Council whose purposes were

- to review the *RASP Implementation Summary Report April 4, 2005, Summary of RASP Actions to March 26, 2005*, and the *Vision and Mission and Goals (2004)* and to determine if the priorities and goals are still valid;
- based on their review, to determine whether a governance review is required; and
- to make recommendations to the Arts Committee

At a meeting on April 29, 2009 the joint working group examined the above documents. Discussion followed on:

- the current relevance of the RASP which dates back to 2002
- the Vision Mission and Goals adopted in 2004
- the nature of a governance review

There was consensus that the VMG are still valid. Suggestions were made to change the second sentence of the vision statement to “The CRD will *develop and support* an environment in which the arts thrive for the benefit of everyone in the region” and to change the goal *An effective granting process* to *An effective, fair and inclusive granting process*.

The discussion led to general agreement that the current governance structure, consisting of the Arts Committee which is responsible for policy and budget, and the Arts Advisory Council which is responsible for advising and adjudication, does not appear to limit the current or potential activities of the Arts Service.

There was further agreement that what was required was to identify strategic goals and policies in order to provide future direction for the Arts Service and its policies and programs. The working group agreed that a discussion of the Arts Committee and Arts Advisory Council, facilitated by an independent consultant, would be an appropriate and efficient way to reach this goal.

It was then moved by D. Screech, seconded by P. Weinrich, that it be recommended that there be a facilitated session of the Arts Committee and Arts Advisory Council whose purpose is to review the RASP Implementation Summary Report of April 4, 2005 and the Vision Mission and Goals (adopted 2004) in order to identify strategic priorities and potential gaps.

ALTERNATIVES

1. That staff be directed to draft terms of reference to engage a consultant who will facilitate a joint Arts Committee/Arts Advisory Council discussion in order to establish strategic priorities and identify gaps that will provide direction for future policy and program development.
2. That staff not be directed to draft terms of reference for consultant.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Budget implications include consultant's fee and meeting costs. Resources exist within current budgets and reserve funds.

SUMMARY/CONCLUSIONS

The group seemed to agree that a large-scale "governance review" was not required but that the real need lay in identifying strategic priorities that will inform future budgeting, policymaking and program initiatives. This was felt timely for several reasons including:

- the age of the documents that were reviewed by the working group
- changes in the economy which have affected private sector and foundation support
- recent changes in arts funding at the provincial and federal levels

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that it be moved that staff be directed to draft terms of reference to engage a consultant who will facilitate a joint Arts Committee/Arts Advisory Council discussion, the purpose of which will be to identify strategic priorities and potential gaps that will provide direction for future policy and program development.



Manager, CRD Arts Development Service