

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Economic Development Division

m e m o r a n d u m

TO: Public Arts Commission

FROM: Pauline Tannos, Public Arts Coordinator

DATE: June 4, 2015

SUBJECT: Discussion on Arts in the Schools

Introduction

In December 2014, Prairie Elementary was awarded a grant of \$3,000 through Arts in the Schools. As discussed at the Public Arts Commission meeting in November 2014, the initiative's goals and selection process need to be revisited and developed before the next funding cycle.

Update

Prairie Elementary has completed their Arts in the Schools project, *Generations of Traditions and Stories*. The culminating event was attended by staff and members of the Public Arts Commission.

Since then, staff has started planning for the next cycle by talking to members of the Commission and the local school district to better understand the community's art education needs. From these meetings, staff learned that funding is most needed for purchasing and maintaining art supplies or musical instruments, and for organizing field trips or artist visits. However, at the November 2014 meeting, there was concern from the Commission about funding field trips, because of the high cost of buses.

Recommendation

With such a wide range of programming possibilities, it seems most efficient to welcome all ideas, instead of discouraging certain activities like field trips. Staff suggests that Arts in the Schools adopts a selection process similar to the regular arts grant program and allows a jury to determine the quality and impact of each proposal.

Arts in the Schools would accept applications from not only teachers or schools, but also all artists or organizations interested in working with the local school system. Applicants may request a total amount of \$1,000, \$2,000, or \$3,000. Unlike the regular grants, purchase of non-consumable materials would be allowed.

Staff invites the Public Arts Commission to share their thoughts on the development of Arts in the Schools at the June 9 meeting, and welcomes commissioners who attended Prairie Elementary's *Fine Arts Night* to share their comments on the event.

Prepared by:

Pauline Tannos