



CREATIVE ECONOMY DEPARTMENT MEMORANDUM

TO: MAYOR J. LEHMAN AND MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

FROM: A. DYKE, CULTURE OFFICER, DEVELOPMENT, EXT 4593

NOTED: K. DUBEAU, DIRECTOR OF CREATIVE ECONOMY
Z. LIFSHIZ, EXECUTIVE DIRECT OF INVEST BARRIE
M. PROWSE, CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

RE: CITY OF BARRIE LGBTQIA2+ GRANTS PROGRAM

DATE: OCTOBER 28, 2019

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide members of Council with an update concerning the City of Barrie's LGBTQIA2+ Grants Program, and to communicate the results of the 2019 funding.

Overview of the LGBTQIA2+ Grants Program

On May 6, 2019, City Council adopted Motion 19-G-137 to allocate \$7,000 towards LGBTQIA2+ initiatives, including, but not limited to Pride Celebrations and anti-bullying programs, with the Director of Creative Economy having delegated authority to allocate the funds accordingly. Council's intent was for a community-led fund, to which organizations could apply for funding. The intended targets were smaller, not for profit organizations with limited access to other government funding. The benefit of the one-time funding was to be primarily local to Barrie.

Two grant streams were created that were open for submissions from community organizations:

1. Investing in Community Organizations Grant – funding for existing not-for-profit organizations dedicated to improving the lives of LGBTQIA2+ youth and families. Funding must be for either a new program or resource, or to scale an existing program to meet an identified need in the community. Available funds: Two grants of \$2,000 each.
2. Building Community Grant – funding for existing or new not-for-profit organizations who are seeking to establish or grow the LGBTQIA2+ services for members in their community. Funding must be for a campaign, program or resource to be deployed within their community. Priority will be given to those organizations serving Indigenous/First Nations communities, New Canadians, and Youth at Risk. If the applicant organization is not a registered not-for-profit, they must apply in partnership with a registered not-for-profit organization. The City of Barrie encourages community partnerships for this grant program. Available funds: Three grants of \$1,000 each.

Organizations were invited to apply to both grant programs.

The Grants Process

The Guidelines and Application Form were available online and in hardcopy for all interested applicants to review. Applications were received in the strictest confidence and reviewed by staff to ensure that all required documents were included and the submission met the criteria for the funding program. Staff were available to answer all questions regarding the application process and timing of award announcements.

The applications were reviewed and recommendations made for the allocation of funds to successful applicants by a three member jury, which was selected based on the jurors' expertise in LGBTQIA2+ issues, affiliation with a not-for-profit LGBTQIA2+ organization from outside of Simcoe County and residential geography of the jurors. Each of the jurors were from outside of Barrie but live within the province of Ontario. The Culture Officer for Development attended the jury sessions in order to provide administrative support and document the feedback to be given to each applicant. Staff was restricted from participation in the review and recommendations process. The scoring criteria considered:

- Experience of the organization (or partner) and track record of delivery
- Potential impact of the proposal
- Alignment to the needs of the target community
- Viability of the project (is it doable, adequate resources)
- References and demonstrated support from the community

Grants Awards for 2019

For this one-time program, four local not-for-profit organizations applied requesting a total amount of funding of \$12,000. All applications were successful in receiving some or all of the funding they requested and \$7,000 was presented to community organizations through the City of Barrie's LGBTQIA2+ Grants process as per the approved budget. The types of applications received, as well as the requested amounts, did not align with planned approach of awarding five grants across two funding streams. As such, the jury made a recommendation for the funding amounts below which was accepted by the Director of Creative Economy. The list of awarded grants is below:

Barrie Pride

Amount awarded: \$2,000

Funds will be used to build out the Barrie Pride youth program by supporting youth journalists in developing a newsletter to promote events and opportunities for LGBTQIA2+ youth.

MacLaren Art Centre

Amount awarded: \$2,000

Grant monies will support hosting a Safer Spaces workshop for their Youth Council, which will provide knowledge on queer and trans history, regional LGBTQIA2+ statistics and experiences, inclusive language and terms, tools to develop organizational change, how to overcome barriers to inclusion and more.

Pflag Barrie-Simcoe County Chapter – The Quoir

Amount awarded: \$2,000

Funds will be used to purchase sheet music and minor equipment for Barrie's queer choir, providing opportunities for outreach at events, in community spaces and to diverse groups within the community.

Trans Q

Amount awarded: \$1,000

The grant will allow Trans Q to further market and expand two upcoming events, the Transgender Day of Awareness and a holiday dinner for members of the transgender and gender diverse community.

Next Steps

Successful applicants have been notified of the award and provided with feedback from the juried review. Applicants will be responsible for submitting a report back to the City by May 31, 2020 outlining how the funds were used, the outcomes of the funded activities, and the assessment of impact to the community.