



ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Report Date: January 15, 2019
Contact: Liz Jones
Contact No.: 604.871.6169
RTS No.: 12895
VanRIMS No.: 08-2000-20
Meeting Date: January 29, 2019

TO: Vancouver City Council

FROM: General Manager of Finance, Risk and Supply Chain Management in consultation with General Manager of Real Estate and Facilities Management and Chief Librarian

SUBJECT: Funding Application to Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program – Community, Culture and Recreation Infrastructure for the Archives Research Room and Specialty Vault Project

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council approve the application to the Community, Culture and Recreation Infrastructure Stream of the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program for up to \$3.7 million of funding towards the \$5.1 million Shared Research Room and Specialty Vault components of the Archives Renewal and Relocation project included in the 2019-2022 Capital Plan.

REPORT SUMMARY

The City's 2019-2022 Capital Plan funding strategy contemplates securing of senior government contributions toward a number of Council priorities. This project supports the renewal and upgrade of community facilities to serve existing and new residents as well as the preservation and creation of affordable and sustainable arts and cultural spaces through partnerships. This project also supports the capital planning guiding principle of optimizing service delivery through business transformation, co-location and functional integration.

COUNCIL AUTHORITY/PREVIOUS DECISIONS

Federal and/or Provincial funding programs typically require a resolution of Council as part of the application package.

CITY MANAGER'S/GENERAL MANAGER'S COMMENTS

The City Manager recommends approval of the foregoing.

REPORT

Background/Context

The Community, Culture and Recreation Infrastructure Program is a component of the wider Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) which will provide funding through the Integrated Bilateral Agreement between Canada and British Columbia for 4 streams: Green Infrastructure; Community, Culture and Recreation Infrastructure; Rural and Northern Communities Infrastructure; and Public Transit Infrastructure.

Canada and British Columbia's governments announced in September 2018 that they are investing up to \$134 million towards an initial intake of the Community, Culture and Recreation Infrastructure Program.

Municipalities may submit one application to this program. Eligible projects will support public infrastructure, defined as tangible capital assets primarily for public use and benefit and must meet the following outcome:

- Improved access to and/or increased quality of cultural, recreational and/or community infrastructure for Canadians, including Indigenous peoples and vulnerable populations.

The maximum grant available is 73.33% of eligible project costs (40% and 33.33% from the federal and provincial contributions, respectively). The Province has advised the City to put forward a project in the \$3 to \$4 million range.

A resolution of Council is required for each funding application. Resolutions can be submitted within a month of the January 23, 2019 application submission deadline.

Strategic Analysis

In scoping out projects to submit to the Community, Culture and Recreation program, City staff considered projects that meet the goals of the program, are included in the 2019-2022 Capital Plan and will complete by March 31, 2024.

The overall project budget and the ability to separate a phase or a component of the project were also considered. The Province has indicated that while there is no cap on the maximum allowable funding per project, there will be significant competition for the funding and they are looking for a fair distribution of funding across municipalities, non-profit and Indigenous organizations. As such, the Province has recommended projects or components of larger projects with a budget in the \$3 to \$4 million range be submitted for funding.

The City of Vancouver Archives is currently located in a 46-year old purpose-built facility at Vanier Park in Kitsilano. Previous planning studies have identified that the Archives and the public services it provides are now facing a number of challenges, including space constraints in the current building, sea level rise risks and less than optimal access to the public due to its current physical location. An accommodation study identified the Vancouver Public Library

(VPL) Central Library branch as the recommended new location, sharing the same public research space with VPL's Special Collections program.

The Archives Renewal and Relocation Project will:

- Provide the Archives with a setting that optimizes public awareness and accessibility to the community's history and historical records;
- Include the Archives in a visionary urban experience and exiting public gathering space by integrating it into the Central Library facility;
- Build a critical focus of Archives resources and community history programs together to create a memorable educational experience for the citizens of Vancouver; and
- Optimize the functional synergies of Archives and Vancouver Public Library operations to address public access to historical records and programs, increased community awareness and enhanced public interaction.

The application is being submitted for the Research Room and the Specialty Vault components of the Archives Renewal and Relocation Project, consistent with the Province's recommendation.

The Research Room will be the secure space in which researchers interact with staff regarding their research needs and consult the Archives' holdings and Special Collections' materials stored in the climate-controlled vaults.

The Specialty Vaults will house the Archives' photographic and audio visual holdings in three different storage environments.

Financial Implications

The 2019-2022 Capital Plan includes \$18 million for the renewal and relocation of the Vancouver Archives. \$2.0 million of this was approved in the 2019 Capital Budget for planning the project.

The City is seeking up to approximately \$3.7 million towards the \$5.1 million Shared Research Room and Specialty Vaults components of the overall project as follows:

Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (73.33%)	\$3,700,000
City Share (26.67%) – funded from 2019-22 Capital Plan	\$1,400,000
Research Room and Specialty Vault portion	\$5,100,000
City Share – Remainder of Project (100%)	\$12,900,000
Total Project Cost	\$18,000,000
Total City Share of Funding	\$14,300,000

The City's overall \$14.3 million contribution would be funded from a combination of funding sources as provided for in the 2019-2022 Capital Plan for the Archives Renewal and Relocation project.

CONCLUSION

The City has the opportunity to secure up to \$3.7 million in senior government contributions by applying to the Community, Culture and Recreation Infrastructure stream of the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program for the Research Room and Specialty Vault component of the Archives Renewal and Relocation project.

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