



CITY OF ST. ALBERT ADMINISTRATIVE BACKGROUNDER

TITLE: AHF PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT RENEWAL

This update is being provided for information to Council regarding the status of the negotiations, and the renewal of the Partnership Agreement between the City of St. Albert and the Arts and Heritage Foundation of St. Albert.

BACKGROUND:

The Partnership Agreement between the Arts and Heritage Foundation (AHF) and the City of St. Albert is a service Agreement for the management and operation of City facilities such as the Musée Heritage Museum, the Art Gallery of St. Albert, City heritage resources including the Heritage Park, as well as the provision of school instruction programming, and community visual arts programming on behalf of the City.

The first Stewardship Agreement with the Arts and Heritage Foundation and the City was signed in 2001 for a five-year term and renegotiated in 2007 for an additional five-year term. The second Stewardship Agreement between the Arts and Heritage Foundation and the City of St. Albert was signed on October 24, 2007, extending the agreement from July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2012.

During the negotiation period for the third Agreement, the Agreement was extended on a month-to-month basis until the current Partnership Agreement was signed on April 1, 2013, for a five-year term with an expiry date of March 31, 2018. On February 8, 2014, an Amending Agreement was signed to the Partnership Agreements for the inclusion of the provision of community visual arts classes.

Following informal discussions between the Arts and Heritage Foundation Board of Directors and Council in late 2016, there was a desire by both Council and the AHF Board of Directors to renegotiate the Agreement early, and to explore lengthening the term of the Agreement.

The City of St. Albert and the Arts and Heritage Foundation of St. Albert have completed negotiations regarding the renewal of the Partnership Agreement to continue to provide heritage and visual arts services on behalf of the City. The Partnership Agreement has been reviewed and ratified by the Arts and Heritage Board of Directors on July 27, 2017, and was officially signed on August 1, 2017. The term of the new agreement is a ten-year term, effective from April 1, 2018 to March 31, 2028.

Administration held a series of meetings throughout 2016 and 2017 with representatives of the Arts and Heritage Foundation to review and discuss the Agreement, working relationship, as well as operating practices in relation to administering the Agreement. There have been a few revisions to the Agreement to better align with current practices and improve efficiencies in the administering the Agreement.

The most significant change in the Agreement is the increase in the length of the term from five to ten years. The second significant change was the incorporating of the amending Agreement into the main Partnership Agreement. There were also adjustments to the wording, to clarify the process for disbursement of funds for salaries and expense reimbursement.

Given the restoration work underway on the houses and buildings located within the Heritage Park, the following properties were added to the list of heritage properties for which the Arts and Heritage Foundation will be responsible for overseeing the day-to-day operation and management: Cunningham House, Hogan House, Chevigny House and the Brosseau Granary. Should additional facilities be brought online, there is a clause in the Agreement to revisit the terms of the Agreement and determine the operating model to be used.

The remainder of the revisions to the Agreement were primarily clerical, related to the organization of the Agreement and supplementing wording to improve clarity and understanding.

The working relationship between the Arts and Heritage Foundation and the City continue to be collaborative and positive. We look forward to continuing to build on this relationship, as we continue to provide heritage and visual arts programs and services to the community.

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