



**Subject: Grants Update**

**To: Council**

**From: Office of the Chief Administrative Officer**

Report Number: 2022-128

Meeting Date: July 12, 2022

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**Recommendation:**

That Chief Administrative Office - Economic Development and Tourism Services Report 2022-128 be received for information.

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**Purpose:**

The purpose of this report is to update Council on the status of funding applications written and submitted by the Economic Development and Tourism Services Division from January 1, 2021, to June 30, 2022.

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**Background:**

The Economic Development and Tourism Services (EDTS) Division, established in the fall of 2020, was tasked with identifying and pursuing grant opportunities at the Federal, Provincial, and Regional levels. These funding opportunities help to finance City projects that may not proceed without support from senior levels of government and this funding assistance takes pressure off the City's capital budget. This further benefits the taxpayers as previously committed dollars can be directed to other priority projects.

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**Discussion:**

Since January 2021, the Economic Development and Tourism Services Division has submitted 22 applications and to date has been approved for a total of \$2,326,925.38 in grant funding from the Federal, Provincial, and Regional governments. A total of 16 applications have been approved and monies have been received at the time of this report.

This grant funding supports various projects, on both a small and large scale, including tourism development, West Street renewal, community economic development, and assisting with financing City-building projects including the new waterfront centre. A list of all funding applications (i.e., received, pending, denied) is included in the Appendix A of this report.

Staff will continue to monitor grant opportunities and submit applications if they align with and support priority projects. As the City continues to grow and welcome new residents, it will be important for staff to pursue grant opportunities that support the infrastructure needs of the City, invest in public facilities, and continue to develop Port Colborne.

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### **Internal Consultations:**

The preparation of grant applications are collaborative projects within the EDTS division. Staff from other departments are consulted including Corporate Services, Public Works, and Office of the CAO.

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### **Financial Implications:**

For some grant programs, the City is required to provide a funding contribution for the project and these amounts are already approved in the capital budget (e.g., Rural Economic Development and Canada Community Revitalization Fund). For other grant programs, a financial contribution from the City is not required and it is a direct grant and fully funded by the program (e.g., Digital Main Street and My Main Street).

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### **Public Engagement:**

Not applicable.

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### **Strategic Plan Alignment:**

The initiative contained within this report supports the following pillar(s) of the strategic plan:

- Attracting Business Investment and Tourists to Port Colborne
  - City-Wide Investments in Infrastructure and Recreational/Cultural Spaces
  - Value: Financial Management to Achieve Financial Sustainability
  - Governance: Communications, Engagement, and Decision-Making
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**Conclusion:**

This report provides an update on the status of funding applications written and submitted by the Economic Development and Tourism Services Division over approximately 18 months (January 1, 2021, to June 30, 2022). 22 applications have been submitted and to date the City has been successful with 16 applications that have secured a total of \$2,326,925.38 in grants for the City to support strategic projects and initiatives. Staff will continue to monitor and capitalize on grant opportunities that align with the strategic direction of the organization and the City.

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**Appendices:**

- a) List of Funding Applications

Respectfully submitted,

Rob Fucile

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**Report Approval:**

All reports reviewed and approved by the Department Director and also the City Treasurer when relevant. Final review and approval by the Chief Administrative Officer.