



P.O. Box 1749  
Halifax, Nova Scotia  
B3J 3A5 Canada

**Item No.**  
**Special Advisory Committee on  
the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Halifax Explosion**

**January 27, 2016**

**TO:** Chair and Members of the Special Advisory Committee on the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Halifax Explosion

**SUBMITTED BY:** original signed  
Jane Fraser A/Director for Amanda Whitewood, Director of Finance & ICT/CFO

**DATE:** January 19, 2016

**SUBJECT:** **Halifax Explosion 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Grants Program Recommended Awards: Fiscal Year 2015-16**

---

**ORIGIN**

October 6, 2015 – Regional Council approved Administrative Order 2015-003-ADM respecting centennial-related grants to non-profit organizations and charities.

January 4, 2016 – Grants Committee approval of referral of eligible applicants to the 2016 *Community Grants Program* as per Section 26 of Administrative Order 2015-003-ADM.

**LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY**

*HRM Charter (2008) s.79(1)(av) respecting grants and contributions and 79(2) in regard to public notification of financial awards granted pursuant to s.79(1).*

*HRM Charter (2008) s. 70(1)(b) respecting grants to business improvement districts.*

*Administrative Order 2015-003-ADM Respecting the Halifax Explosion 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Grants Program.*

*Administrative Order 2014-005-GOV Respecting the Special Advisory Committee on the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Halifax Explosion.*

## **RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Special Advisory Committee on the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Halifax Explosion recommend that the Grants Committee recommend Regional Council approve:

1. 10 awards as detailed in the Discussion section of this report for a combined total of \$90,760 from Account M311-8004 *Community Grants Program*; and
2. Transfer of \$43,591 from M311-8004 to the Operating Surplus Reserve Q328.

## **BACKGROUND**

The *Halifax Explosion 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Grants Program* is designed to expand opportunities for the participation of the non-profit sector in recognizing the centennial, including organizations and projects ineligible for consideration under an existing municipal grant program and collaborative initiatives.<sup>1</sup> The program's funding priorities support the vision statement and guiding principles developed by the Special Advisory Committee on the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Halifax Explosion for the municipality's commemorative program.

In accordance with legislation, grants and contributions must be approved by Regional Council and the public notified of any award through an advertisement placed in a newspaper circulating throughout the region. All reports and minutes are available to the public through the HRM web site and notices placed in the Municipal Notices section of the *Chronicle-Herald* newspaper. This report makes recommendations with respect to awards. An overview of the evaluation criteria is included in Attachment 1. Applications not recommended for funding are listed in Attachment 2.

## **DISCUSSION**

The 2015 call for application to the *Halifax Explosion 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Grants Program* received 18 on-time applications for a combined total of \$145,223.70 in requests. Notwithstanding that some projects will proceed beyond December 6, 2017, the timing of this first call for applications was intended to accommodate projects that are larger scale/multi-year and those requiring background research or negotiation so as to be complete or ready for presentation.

Four (4) applications are for partial funding; the expenditure/phase funded by the grant is expected to be completed by March 31, 2017. These organizations shall be expected to submit a final report with proof of expenditures by March 31, 2017. Should these organizations intend to apply to a proposed call for applications in 2016 it would be advisable to submit the final report with or in advance of any additional funding request.

**Progress Reports:** Six (6) applications are for projects with expenditures that will span two fiscal years (2016-17 and 2017-18) and as such a final report might not be expected until March 31, 2018. To monitor the progress of these projects it is recommended that these organizations be required to submit a progress report on or before March 31, 2017. Staff will then provide an Information Report to the Advisory Committee and the Grant Committee. In the alternative, awards may be issued in installments or by reimbursement in accordance with Section 34 of the Administrative Order which states: "Grant monies shall be issued in full, in instalments or by reimbursement upon approval of the application".

**Ineligible Expenditures:** Some submissions include expenses ineligible under the program's policy. The letter of notification to award recipients will provide further guidance but for clarity individual recommendations identify specific expenditures. This approach helps grant recipients in providing the

---

<sup>1</sup> Report to Audit & Finance Standing Committee, September 22, 2015.

support documentation in their final report (Section 35.d)<sup>2</sup> and including the ineligibility of retroactive expenses per (Section 16).

**Transfer to Reserve:** In an effort to support applications for projects that required time to develop a detailed submission and or projects of modest scale, it is recommended the balance remaining in M311-8004 *Community Grants Program* be held in reserve for 2016-17. This approach decreases pressure on the 2016-17 budget and supports a merit-based approach to funding.

## 1. Recommended Awards

The *Halifax Explosion 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Grants Program* is not intended as a developmental program. Those recommended for funding received a score of 65/100 and are listed below in rank order. Any reference to policy is to Administrative Order 2014-003-ADM. Readers are directed to [www.halifax.ca/legislation/adminorders/index.php](http://www.halifax.ca/legislation/adminorders/index.php) for a copy of the policy.

### **1. Photopolis Society – Halifax/Dartmouth – Ethno-Cultural Research and Presentation**

Established in 1998 and incorporated as a non-profit society in 2011, Photopolis is a volunteer-run tri-annual city-wide festival of photography. The four-week event presents the work of approximately 100 local, national and international photo-based artists in numerous galleries and alternate spaces (~30 locations). Admission to the exhibits is free. The event also encompasses artist talks, special events, workshops, film screenings and a symposium. The festival is financed through exhibitor/symposium registration fees and program advertising revenue.

A grant of \$10,000 requested to fully fund *The Turtle Grove Project*, a youth engagement/community art project for approximately 10-15 urban Mi'kmaq ages 16-20. Participation will be promoted through referrals, established youth programs, and social media. Through a series of workshops, participants will research the impact of the Halifax Explosion on the Turtle Grove community of Dartmouth using archival and archaeological resources at the Nova Scotia Archives and Nova Scotia Museum of Natural History assisted by educators and leaders from the Mi'kmaq community. The art-making/representation process will be mentored by Mi'kmaq artist Ursula Johnson, a visual/performance artist specializing in community engagement and photographer Jayme-Lynn Gloade.

Based on their discoveries, participants will produce a photographic record to be displayed as a feature exhibit at the October, 2017, *Photopolis Festival of Photography*. Photopolis will provide in-kind assistance through overall project management, the exhibition venue and publicity. From a community engagement perspective the process is the outcome, one that places youth in the central role of self-discovery (identity, tradition, and cultural history) and self-expression.

The project addresses the program's educational objectives in terms of increasing awareness of the Explosion (Policy s.3.b) with a focus on youth and young adults (Policy s.6.a) and actively engages participants in a self-directed inter-generational process that fosters cultural self-representation. The incremental impact of funding is high in terms of youth accessibility. As project advocate the Photopolis Society lends technical resources and access to an event that attracts attendance from outside the region while providing free public access to assorted exhibit venues in Halifax and Dartmouth.

**A grant of \$10,000 to Photopolis Society recommended to fund the *Turtle Grove Project*. A progress report shall be submitted by March 31, 2017 and a final report with proof of expenditures by March 31, 2018.**

### **2. Nova Scotia Home for Colored Children/Voices Black Theatre Ensemble – Dartmouth – Ethno-Cultural Research and Presentation**

---

<sup>2</sup> Policy requires original receipts and/or proof of payment for the Municipality's grant.

Incorporated in 1987 under an Act of the Nova Scotia Legislature the Nova Scotia Home for Colored Children is a registered Canadian charity that provides child care and family services. Operations are sustained with funding from the Nova Scotia Department of Community Services, rental income, investment earnings, fundraising and grants. Voices Black Theatre Ensemble is a multi-arts theatre and story-telling performance company founded in 1990 to preserve African Nova Scotia culture. The society is sustained by project-specific grants, ticket revenues, and fundraising.

The partners' collaborative project tells the untold story of events, institutions and persons of historical importance to the region's Black community through development of an original play, *Extraordinary Acts*, by actor/playwright David Woods assisted by project dramaturge Djanet Sears. The play explores the Home for Colored Children's historical link to the Halifax Explosion using the biographical story of local lawyer James R. Johnston who advocated for the establishment of a Normal and Industrial Institute and an orphanage for Black children. In 1915, the Nova Scotia Government passed legislation supporting both a school and an orphanage and the former Halifax Normal and Industrial School property on Veith Street was purchased. A fundraising campaign was launched but the premises were destroyed in the Halifax Explosion prior to its official opening. Despite this setback, the orphanage was subsequently established in Westphal and although the goal of an educational institution never materialized the Henry G. Bauld Elementary School located on the site partially filled the void. The play's other central characters are physician Dr. Clement Ligoure who operated a small private hospital on North Street that aided persons injured in the Explosion, and artist Edith MacDonald-Brown a resident of Africville. A grant of \$10,000 requested towards archival/biographical research and script development totalling \$16,268. Application has been made to the *Nova Scotia Museum Commemorative Grant Program* (funding unconfirmed) and the applicant's share of costs is confirmed. The intent is to pursue federal funding for staging performances in 2017. In the event that production funding is not secured, Voices Black Theatre Ensemble have committed to a public reading during the centennial.

The project addresses the program's educational objectives in terms of increasing awareness of the Explosion on the African Nova Scotian community (Policy 6.e), fosters self-representation, and recognizes persons and institutions of historic significance in relation to the event (Policy 6.c). The presentation of this 'new' information will enhance public awareness of unique and important aspects of the region's history while expanding our collective understanding of Black history.

**A grant of \$10,000 to the Nova Scotia Home for Colored Children to fund research and the development of an original play, *Extraordinary Acts*. A final report with proof of expenditures due by March 31, 2017.**

### **3.Nova Scotia Cultural Society of the Deaf – Halifax – Cultural Research and Presentation**

Founded in 1976, the Society is a volunteer-run non-profit whose primary goal is to preserve and promote the cultural interests of the Deaf and hard of hearing community. Activities include access to information about American Sign Language (ASL) and Maritime Sign Language (MSL), arts and cultural events with Deaf artists and performers, and the promotion of understanding between Deaf and hearing people. The Society is self-funded through membership dues, service fees, and fundraising.

A grant of \$10,000 requested towards the development of a documentary film, *The Halifax Explosion: The Deaf Experience*, with technical assistance provided by the Atlantic Filmmakers Co-Operative Limited. The film will tell the story of Deaf and Deafblind students attending the Halifax School for the Deaf located on Gottingen Street, Halifax, at the time of the Halifax Explosion and in particular the role of school Principal James Fearon who is credited with ensuring the children's safety and relocation of the school to Wolfville while repairs were undertaken with financial aid provided by the Halifax-Massachusetts Relief Fund and the Nova Scotia government. Background research has located original documents written by the Principal, by a Deafblind student who survived the Explosion, and by parents of the survivors. The film will include recorded interviews with living descendants and older members of the Deaf community who recall traditional stories of survivors, archival film, and still images. Accessibility is enhanced using ASL and MSL interpreters, sub-titles, and voice-over narration. The date and venue of public screenings is unconfirmed but local independent film festivals, including those for persons with a disability, afford

several opportunities to reach a broader audience. Total costs are estimated to be \$20,000. Application will be made to the Canada Council for the Arts/Arts Nova Scotia *Equity Funding Program* for production funding.

The project fosters self-representation and 'new' knowledge regarding Deaf culture and the history of a pioneering educational institution and persons in relation to the Halifax Explosion (Policy 6.c). Technical support provided by the Atlantic Filmmakers Co-operative lends experience and resources to complement the proponent's standing within the community of interest.

**A grant of \$10,000 to the Nova Scotia Cultural Society of the Deaf toward sociocultural research and script-writing for the documentary film *The Halifax Explosion: The Deaf Experience*. A final report with proof of expenditures due by March 31, 2017.**

#### **4. Dalhousie University – Halifax – Exhibition or Display**

Established in 1953 the Dalhousie Art Gallery is a public gallery and an academic support unit within the educational and research context of Dalhousie University. The gallery maintains a permanent collection of historical and contemporary works, hosts in-house and traveling exhibitions, conducts art research, produces educational materials, and offers public programming that includes artists' presentations, film screenings, lectures, and special events. Approximately 50% of gallery visitors are from the non-academic community. Admission is free.

A grant of \$6,760.27 requested towards *The Hydrostone Project*, a digital photo-essay by local artist Claire Hodge commissioned by the gallery for the centennial. The work examines "...how the Hydrostone, born out of tragedy, is a tribute to the people who have lived here for the past century, and to encourage people to think of history not as isolated points in time, but as a continuum of lived experiences". The artist will engage neighbourhood residents through a flyer informing them of the project and an invitation to participate in discussion about the history of the Hydrostone and the relationship between personal stories/'private' property and the broader historical context/'public' domain.

The commissioned work forms one element of a larger centennial exhibition hosted by the gallery in 2017 that will include works by Arthur Lismer from the gallery's permanent collection and *Walking the Debris Field: Public Geographies of the Halifax Explosion*, a three-year initiative of the Narratives in Space and Time Society. Lismer is best known as a member of the Group of Seven, an internationally recognized Canadian art movement but at the time of Halifax Explosion he served as Principal of the Victoria School of Art and Design (1916-1919). On the morning of December 6th Lismer left his home in Bedford to sketch images of the devastation. In contrast to Lismer's immediate/historical works will be an exhibit, *Walking the Debris Field*, based on a series of public art events that explore ways in which the Explosion, relief efforts and reconstruction affected flora, fauna, terrain and people and continues to influence the community. The commemorative exhibition budget totals \$12,510.27 and the gallery has sought funds under the Canada Council *Assistance to Art Museums and Galleries Program*. The applicant's cash contribution is confirmed.

Taken together the works present an eclectic range of historical and contemporary materials connected through reference to the Halifax Explosion's aftermath and enduring legacy. Public accessibility is enhanced by public lectures, an illustrated catalogue, and free admission (Policy 6.c). The submission clearly describes project outcomes with a detailed and well substantiated budget. The project is well supported by the curatorial, technical and communications resources of the applicant.

**A grant of \$6,760 to Dalhousie University Art Gallery recommended toward *The Hydrostone Project* commission and a centennial exhibition in 2017. A progress report due by March 31, 2017, and a final report with proof of expenditures due by March 31, 2018.**

### **5. Halifax Theatre for Young People – Dartmouth – Educational Initiative**

Founded in 2008 and incorporated as a non-profit society in 2010, Halifax Theatre for Young People is a professional theatre company whose mandate is the creation of engaging theatre experiences for young people and families. The society is sustained by ticket sales, grants, fundraising and corporate sponsorship.

A grant of \$10,000 requested towards production of an original play, *No Safe Harbour*, an adaptation of the fictional children's book by Canadian author Julie Lawson. Total costs are estimated to be \$21,800. Application has also been made to the provincial *Operating Grants to Arts Organizations Program*, the applicant's contribution is confirmed and corporate sponsorship will be pursued. The book's central character is 12-year old Charlotte Blackburn whose parents are killed in the Halifax Explosion but who is eventually reunited with her twin brother: "The story deals with her courage and fortitude in the face of tragedy and gives a realistic sense of the resilience demonstrated by the wider community". An open call to writers and playwrights will be issued through Theatre Nova Scotia and a first reading/audience feedback is scheduled for the *Next Stages Theatre Festival for Families* in June, 2016. The play will be performed at Alderney Landing Theatre, Dartmouth, in November, 2017 (4 shows with expected ticket price \$6-\$7) followed by performances in local schools (anticipated 12 performances at \$250/school).

The project's central character encourages empathy among young audience members aided by a study guide and aligns with the program's funding goals (Policy 3.b and 6.a). The application has a clear focus and places an emphasis on affordability for families through modest ticket prices/school fee. Established relationships among participating organizations, venues, and events indicate an ability to successfully complete the project and heighten awareness of the Halifax Explosion among children and youth.

**A grant of \$10,000 to the Halifax Theatre for Young People recommended to commission an original script and presentation of the children's play *No Safe Harbour*. A progress report due by March 31, 2017, and a final report and proof of expenditures due by March 31, 2018.**

### **6. Symphony Nova Scotia – Halifax- Interpretation**

Symphony Nova Scotia's origins can be traced to the Halifax Symphony (c.1897) and over the ensuing years has evolved into one of the region's leading professional arts organizations with a diverse repertoire, award-winning performers and productions, and a strong commitment to community engagement. Operations are sustained by ticket sales, government grants, corporate sponsorship, investment earnings and personal gifts.

The Symphony propose hosting a special *Halifax Explosion Commemorative Concert* honoring the Halifax Explosion centennial on December 1 and 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2017, at the Rebecca Cohen Auditorium, Halifax. Several local songwriters will be asked to write and perform an original work written in the first person to suggest the experiences of those who lived through the disaster. These individual pieces will be linked to communicate a cohesive narrative culminating in a group composition composed and performed collectively under the direction of local composer Scott Macmillan. The Symphony will also commission musician/composer Derek Charke to write a "contemplative" commemorative work for orchestra and solo soprano: the text will be taken from poems or letters of the period. The suggested ticket price (\$20) and public access to rehearsals enhance accessibility. Video, film or sound recording will be explored and if realized will provide an enduring legacy. The total projected budget is \$96,225. A grant of \$10,000 requested towards commissioning new works. The applicant's contribution is confirmed.

The proposal demonstrates sensitivity regarding the emotional tone of commemoration (Policy 3.a). Program content fosters originality, connectivity and artistic excellence with broad demographic appeal. The submission clearly describes project outcomes in relation to the centennial grant program's funding goals and includes a well substantiated budget.

**A grant of \$10,000 to Symphony Nova Scotia recommended to commission an original music composition. A final report due by March 31, 2017.**

### **7. St. Paul's Anglican Church – Halifax – Ceremonial Event**

Located in Grand Parade, Halifax, St. Paul's Anglican Church (c.1750) is a National Historic Site of Canada. St. Paul's survived the Halifax Explosion and its ancillary buildings served as a makeshift shelter, medical station, and relief distribution site while the church itself was made available to congregations whose property was destroyed or severely damaged. The parish provides an array of religious, congregational and community outreach programs and services sustained by congregational offerings, rental income, and fundraising.

A grant of \$10,000 requested to fully fund *The Lost Memorial Project* a re-creation of the memorial service for victims of the Halifax Explosion that took place at St. Paul's on January 1, 1918. The event will feature a 90-minute program of music, prose, traditional Anglican liturgy and archival material to create a unique commemoration, including a commissioned work for choir and pipe organ by writer/composer David Christensen. Leading up to the service images will be projected onto the church's exterior walls curated by visual artist Ian McKinnon, the parish's first artist-in-residence. The event is tentatively scheduled for the evening of December 6, 2017, but the date is to be confirmed in relation to other activities taking place on that particular day.

The project is an acknowledgment of the role religious and faith-based organizations played in aiding survivors or mourning the deceased (Policy 3.a). The event demonstrates sensitivity regarding the emotional tone of commemoration and a formal remembrance ceremony (Policy 6.e), presents 'new' knowledge using previously unknown church archival material, and is accessible to the general public. An event of this type would have limited access to government funding and as such the *Halifax Explosion 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Grants Program* represents a unique funding opportunity for both the applicant and the municipality.

**A grant of \$10,000 to St. Paul's Anglican Church recommended for *The Lost Memorial Project* towards professional fees for an original composition, archival images, equipment rental, and performers. A progress report due by March 31, 2017, and a final report with proof of expenditures due by March 31, 2018.**

Note: Refer to Grants staff for assistance with budget breakdown in relation to eligible expenditures.

### **8. Halifax Community Planning and Design Association/PLANifax Production Co-Operative Limited – Halifax - Educational**

Incorporated in 2006, the Halifax Community Planning and Design Association is a registered non-profit society that advocates for the incorporation of quality design in community planning. The society is sustained by project-specific grants. PLANifax is a newly formed non-profit production cooperative whose goal is to inform and raise awareness of municipal planning issues.

A grant of \$9,601 requested to fully fund the development of a 15-minute video and 30-minute podcast. Key themes explored by the project include: the scale of physical devastation, how the community response took place, how a vision for the area was formulated, and how the rebuilding and planning for the area shaped Halifax at the time and continues today, the role of Thomas Adams and other key city-building leaders with an emphasis on the Hydrostone district as an example of the *Garden City Movement*. Content will include archival maps and newspaper clippings, reconstruction plans, archival photographs and film, and interviews with subject matter experts.

The strength of the proposal is accessibility using web-based technology to reach an expanded audience (Policy 6.a) and a niche focus on how the Halifax Explosion shaped contemporary urban planning.

**A grant of \$9,000 to Halifax Community Planning and Design Association recommended for script development and production. A progress report due by March 31, 2017, and a final report with proof of expenditures due on or before March 31, 2018.**

### **9. Neptune Theatre Foundation/Eastern Front Theatre Society – Halifax - Educational**

Neptune Theatre is a professional arts company that own and operate a theatre complex. Programming includes a theatre school, in-house and touring theatre productions, and events. The Foundation is a registered Canadian charity. Operations are sustained by ticket sales, government grants, and corporate sponsorship supplemented by facility rentals, special events and fundraising. Eastern Front Theatre is professional theatre company whose repertoire features Atlantic Canadian artists and their work. Operations are sustained by federal and provincial grants and ticket sales. The Society is a registered Canadian charity.

A grant of \$10,000 requested towards artist fees including the development of an original script, *The Lullaby Project*, by local actor/playwright Karen Basset. The play is based on three persons identified in the *Halifax Explosion Book of Remembrance*<sup>3</sup> from different ethno-cultural communities killed in the Halifax Explosion who “travel” through the post-explosion landscape and in sharing their personal stories “...discover not only their diversity, but also their shared values”. Following a two-month tour of provincial schools the play will be presented as part of Eastern Front Theatre’s presentation schedule in the Fall of 2017 at Neptune Theatre. The total estimated budget is \$90,760. Other sources of funding identified in the submission are school fees (\$650/school), corporate sponsorship, and ticket sales (price not stated).

Note: The applicants requested \$10,000 towards “artist fees”. In the alternative, it is recommended that professional fees of \$5,000 to commission an original script be fully funded (a legacy component) and that \$5,000 be directed towards subsidizing the participation of schools. For example, schools serving lower income communities or those located in towns that provided immediate aid to the stricken city<sup>4</sup>. The latter acknowledges the “compassionate response” of Nova Scotian communities and raises awareness beyond regional schools.

The project capitalizes upon the artistic synergies created through the collaboration of two well-established theatre companies. The play’s content promotes empathy and an acceptance of diversity (Policy 6.d) using a sensitive and innovative approach to honoring the victims of the Halifax Explosion.

**A grant of \$10,000 to Neptune Theatre Foundation recommended for the development of an original play and provincial school tour. A progress report due March 31, 2017, and a final report with proof of expenditures due by March 31, 2018.**

### **10. Halifax Camerata Singers – Halifax- Interpretation**

Incorporated in 1987, the Camerata Singers is a professional arts organization and registered Canadian charity whose mandate is the advancement of choral music through performance, commissioning new works, talent development, and outreach activities. The choir performs concerts throughout Nova Scotia and forms the core of the Symphony Nova Scotia Chorus. The organization is primarily sustained by donations, government and foundation grants.

A grant of \$7,300 requested for professional fees for a *Halifax, 1917: From Dreams to Despair* concert estimated to cost a total of \$9,200. The performance is expected to be at St. Mark’s Baptist Church, Halifax, March 26, 2017. The proposed program incorporates music of the era reflective of daily life preceding the Explosion (religious, concert hall, patriotic/military music) culminating with performance of a commissioned choral work, *Halifax 1917*, by local musician/composer Christopher Palmer. These individual pieces will be linked by a narrative written and performed by actor/writer Jeremy Webb. The concert concludes with a hymn/prayer for personal reflection. To facilitate access ticket prices are on a sliding scale (\$10 to \$25). A grant in an amount lower than requested recommended based on incremental impact (the focus of program content in relation to Policy 5.c) and score.

---

<sup>3</sup> The book lists 1,951 people identified as having perished as a direct result of the Halifax Explosion. The book was presented to the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic by the Halifax Foundation in 2002 and is on permanent display.

<sup>4</sup> For example, immediate aid arrived by rail from Truro, Windsor, Kentville, Stellarton, Bridgewater, Amherst and New Glasgow and towns in New Brunswick.

Camerata Singers' reputation for artistic excellence will animate an eclectic repertoire of period music representing the role of different music genres in daily life during 1917 culminating in a commemorative work representing the Explosion's catastrophic impact on citizens (Policy 3.a). The individual works will be linked by a dramatic text to give "voice" to the story reflected in the production's chronological progression.

**A grant of \$5,000 to the Halifax Camerata Singers recommended to commission an original choral composition and partial funding towards artist fees (performers). A final report due on or before March 31, 2017.**

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

M311-8004 Community Grants Program Balance as of December 31, 2015	\$134,351
Less Proposed Awards (10)	(\$90,760)
Less Transfer to Operating Surplus Reserve Q328	(\$43,591)
<b>Balance</b>	<b>\$0</b>

### **Q328 Operating Surplus Reserve - Budget Summary**

Anticipated Net Available Balance, March 31, 2016 at Dec 31/15	\$3,349,013
Transfer from Operating, M311	\$ 43,591
Revised Projected Net Available Balance, March 31, 2016	\$3,392,604

The purpose of the transfer of the balance remaining is towards funding a second call for application under the *Halifax Explosion 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Grants Program* in fiscal year 2016-17 and to reduce pressure on the 2016 budget.

The Business Case for the reserve is currently being developed as part of a broader review of reserves.

### **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

Information regarding program eligibility, application timelines and evaluation criteria were posted on the Municipality's web site October 23, 2015. Printed materials were also available from all Customer Contact Centres and the Corporate Call Centre. Information meetings for potential applicants were held November 25, Dartmouth, and November 26, Halifax.

The Special Advisory Committee on the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Halifax Explosion comprises eight (8) members of the general public appointed by Regional Council pursuant to Administrative Order 2015-005-GOV. The committee is charged with the responsibility to receive recommendations from the staff review panel and forward their recommendation to the HRM Grants Committee. The HRM Grants Committee comprises three (3) members of Regional Council appointed by their respective Community Council, one of whom shall be a member of the Audit & Finance Standing Committee, and six (6) members of the general public appointed by Regional Council through a public call for volunteers convened by the Office of the Municipal Clerk.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

Not applicable.

### **ALTERNATIVES**

1. The Advisory Committee could recommend that a staff recommendation be overturned or amended, including the value of award or the terms and conditions of funding.

If a recommendation is amended the rationale and any financial implications is to be provided in the committee's report to the Grants Committee.

2. The Advisory Committee could recommend the use of instalment payments as provided for in Section 34 of Administrative Order 2015-003-ADM for awards that include expenses paid from a municipal grant in fiscal year 2017-18. From the information provided by applicants there are six (6) multi-year submissions.

Payment by instalments reduces potential risk to HRM should a project not proceed, or not proceed as described/funded. In the alternative, a progress report has been recommended and the staff Information Report will be presented in a public forum (Advisory Committee and Grant Committee meeting agenda).

### **ATTACHMENTS**

1. Overview of Review Methodology.
2. Applications Not Recommended for Funding.

---

A copy of this report can be obtained online at <http://www.halifax.ca/commcoun/index.php> then choose the appropriate Community Council and meeting date, or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 902.490.4210, or Fax 902.490.4208.

Report Prepared by: Peta-Jane Temple, Team Lead Grants & Contributions, Finance & ICT 902.490.5469;  
Peter Greechan, Community Developer, Grants & Contributions, Finance & ICT  
902.490.7310

Original signed

Report Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Bruce Fisher, Manager Financial Policy & Planning, Finance & ICT 902.490.4493

---

**Overview of Review Methodology**

An inter-departmental panel of eight (8) staff was convened with the approval of the Director of Finance to evaluate applications in accordance with the program's policy. The scoring criteria set out in Section 22 (a) to (e) of the policy were incorporated into a scoring matrix as shown below in Table 1 and included on page 17 of the program guide.

<b>Table 1. Weighted Scoring Criteria</b>		
<b>Outcome</b>	<b>Rationale</b>	<b>Score</b>
Organizational and Project Viability	Demonstrated ability to successfully complete/deliver the project before or by December 6, 2017. Demonstrated commitment in relation to the centennial.	20
Knowledge and Awareness	Increase public awareness, new knowledge, self-representation.	20
Innovation and/or Collaboration	Demonstrated project planning, synergy, creative niche or broad public appeal.	10
Incremental Impact	Project would not proceed in whole or in part without public funding.	10
Public Engagement	Participation, accessibility, inclusion, public awareness of the project.	20
Enduring Legacy	Probability of sustainability (if applicable), anticipated duration or scale of impact.	20
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>100</b>

The score does not determine the value of an award but serves as a guide in terms of (i) a minimum standard for funded projects and (ii) may be used to rank applications.

An applicant's score is for the internal use of the review panel only and is not disclosed in any public report but may be available to the applicant or under a FOIPOP request.

Attachment 2

**Applications Not Recommended for Funding**

Applicants not recommended for funding will receive written feedback in a letter of notification and those eligible for consideration under the *Halifax Explosion 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Grants Program* may apply to any subsequent call for submissions. Or, based on timing and program eligibility requirements, may elect to pursue funding under another municipal grant program in fiscal year 2016-17. Where applicable, information regarding other potential funding sources will be provided to organizations or projects ineligible for consideration under the centennial program. Any reference to policy is to Administrative Order 2014-003-ADM. Readers are directed to [www.halifax.ca/legislation/adminorders/index.php](http://www.halifax.ca/legislation/adminorders/index.php) for a copy of the policy.

**ViewPoint Gallery Cooperative Limited – Halifax- Exhibition or Display**

ViewPoint Gallery is a volunteer-run artist-run space that stages exhibitions, workshops, and educational programming. The cooperative is largely self-funded through membership fees supplemented by fundraising, art sales, non-recurring grants and donations. A grant of \$10,000 requested to fully fund an open call for applications to photographers to submit works to an exhibition focused on the enduring impact of the Halifax Explosion. Costs include venue, installation, exhibition catalogue, and guest speaker on the subject of historic photographs of the Explosion. Some budget costs are not incremental (rent) or are ineligible (food and beverages).

**Atlantic Filmmakers Co-operative Limited – Halifax- Interpretation**

Incorporated in 1974, the Atlantic Filmmakers Co-operative's primary service is the provision of facilities, equipment and funds for the production of independent, non-commercial films and the training of filmmakers. The cooperative is a registered Canadian charity. The organization is sustained by federal, provincial and municipal government grants, workshop/course fees and equipment rental income. A grant of \$10,000 requested to commission three short films by intermediate filmmakers that "...explore, contemplate, disrupt or re-imagine the events surrounding the Halifax Explosion..." to be shown at commemorative events leading up to the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and film festivals. Total estimated cost is \$13,500 but some costs unsubstantiated re: service provider/incremental.

**Centre for Art Tapes (Society for Art Presentation) – Halifax- Interpretation**

The Society is a registered Canadian charity that operates an artist-run media centre to support emerging and established artists through access to professional equipment, facilities, educational resources and mentorship. A grant of \$10,000 requested to launch a call to professional artists or a community project facilitated by a professional artist to develop a media project that interprets an aspect of the Halifax Explosion history. Total estimated cost (\$17,000 cash excluding in-kind): ability to proceed may rely upon unconfirmed funding (\$5,000) or adjustment to project scope/budget.

**Carbon Arc Cinema Co-operative Limited – Halifax- Exhibition or Display**

Incorporated in 2013, Carbon Arc hosts weekly screenings of independent films at the Nova Scotia Museum of Natural History over a 5-month season. Revenues are primarily from ticket sales and project-specific government grants. A grant of \$2,699.50 requested towards two film screenings in December, 2017. The incremental impact of the project is difficult to discern. There appears to be the potential to self-fund from admission fees.

**Halifax Amateur Radio Club – Halifax – Educational Initiative**

The Club is a volunteer-run non-profit society serving amateur radio enthusiasts. The Club has a formal agreement with HRM Fire & Emergency Services/EMO to provide operational communications support in the event of an emergency. A grant of \$1,862.93 requested to fully fund the purchase of a radio transmission kit that can provide communications in the event of loss of telephone, Internet or electrical power. Despite an interesting link to the challenges of communications in the aftermath of the disaster the submission lacked detail regarding the educational element. ***Applicant referred to 2016-17 HRM Community Grants Program.***

**St. Marks Anglican Church – Halifax- Exhibition or Display**

St. Mark's Anglican Church request a grant of \$10,000 towards the purchase of a replacement sound system and two video screens (\$18,569.19). The equipment is used primarily for concerts and events hosted at the venue and third party rentals. The equipment purchase is not directly linked to the purpose and funding priorities of the centennial grant program (Section 6.b. "a permanent or temporary exhibition or display featuring the Halifax Explosion").

**Family Service Association – Halifax – Ceremonial or Dedication Event**

The Association is a registered charity that provides family counselling and psycho-educational services to individuals and families. A grant of \$5,000 requested towards a reception with a guest speaker to celebrate the organization's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and reflect upon the value of family and community support. The nature of the project does not qualify as a formal ceremonial or dedication event as described in the program's policy (Section.6.e).

**Nursing History Nova Scotia – Regional - Interpretation**

Society volunteers promote the preservation of the history of nursing. A grant of \$2,000 requested to fund the purchase of a metal park bench with small plaque (cost \$2,200) to be located in Fort Needham Memorial Park to recognize nurses who aided victims of the Halifax Explosion and their families. The bench and plaque engraving are to be purchased from HRM Parks & Recreation. In the absence of detailed criteria concerning the type, number and selection process for commemorative memorials in relation to the Fort Needham Memorial Park this type of request may be premature or ineligible. The applicant is not a registered non-profit organization (Section17.3).