

**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NUMBER 2018-010-ADM
RESPECTING GRANTS TO COMMUNITY MUSEUMS
SHOWING PROPOSED AMENDMENTS**

BE IT RESOLVED AS AN ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER of the Council of the Halifax Regional Municipality under the authority of the *Halifax Regional Municipality Charter*, as follows:

Short Title

1. This Administrative Order may be known as the *Community Museums Grants Program* Administrative Order.

Interpretation

2. In this Administrative Order,

(a) “applicant” means a community museum organization applying for funding under this Administrative Order;

(b) “Council” means the Council of the Halifax Regional Municipality;

(c) “core recurring operating expenses” means regular, ongoing fixed general and administrative operating expenses required to operate the museum and management of its collection(s) or a recurring observance day event hosted by the museum or a community-based non-profit or charitable organization;

(d) “fiscal year” means the year commencing on April 1 and ending on March 31;

(e) “registered non-profit organization” includes:

(i) society incorporated pursuant to the *Societies Act*, R.S.N.S 1989, c.435, as amended;

(ii) a not-for-profit corporation incorporated pursuant to the *Canada Not-for-Profit Corporations Act*, S.C 2009, c.23, or

(iii) a non-profit organization otherwise incorporated pursuant to an Act of the Nova Scotia Legislature;

(f) “Municipality” means the Halifax Regional Municipality;

(g) “museum” means a permanent facility, open to the public, that acquires, conserves, researches, communicates and exhibits the tangible and intangible heritage of humanity and its environment for the purpose of education, study and enjoyment;

(h) “a community museum” means a museum that reflects either the community where the museum is located, or a specialized theme; and

(i) “registered charitable organization” means a charity incorporated under the Income Tax Act, R.S.C., 1985, c. 1 (5th Supp.).

Purpose and Objectives

3. The purpose of this Administrative Order is to provide grants to eligible community museums located within the geographic boundary of the Halifax Regional Municipality to support core museum operations and build organizational capacity in achieving and maintaining accepted standards of practice.

Grants Available

4. There is hereby established a grant program to provide operational support to eligible community museums.

5. Repealed.

6. There are two funding categories:

(a) Operating Grant: supports core recurring operating expenses directly related to the operation of a community museum in the Halifax Regional Municipality; and

(b) Project Grant: supports a non-recurring project that enhances educational programming, public access, organizational capacity building, a specific type of event or commemorative project, or a capital project.

7. (1) Operating Grants are available at three levels:

(a) Tier I: available to a community museum with annual core operating expenditures averaging \$25,000 per year or above over the three years immediately preceding application to the program, or an application for continuation of funding, up to a maximum of \$25,000 per fiscal year;

(b) Tier II: available to a community museum with annual core operating expenditures averaging more than \$10,000 per year over the three (3) years immediately preceding application to the program, or an application for continuation of funding, up to a maximum of \$15,000 per fiscal year; and

(c) Tier III: a developmental award available to a community museum with annual core operating expenditures averaging \$10,000 or less over the three (3) years immediately preceding application to the program, or an application for continuation of funding, up to a maximum of \$5,000 per fiscal year.

8. Combined municipal, provincial, and federal operating funding, including operating funding received from this program, shall not exceed 80% of total operating revenues for annual administrative and core museum program costs.

9. Operating Grants may provide up to a three (3) year funding commitment, subject to annual budgetary approval by Regional Council.

10. (1) Project Grants are available in three sub-categories:

(a) Regular Project Grant: a maximum award of up to \$5,000,00 per fiscal year per eligible applicant to support one or more non-recurring initiatives that enhance educational programming, public access, organizational capacity building, an awareness and appreciation of museums and community heritage, the museum, its collection, programs or services, including small equipment purchases;

(b) Special Project Grant: a maximum award of up to \$20,000.00 per eligible applicant to support a non-recurring exceptional or unique opportunity with the potential to attract provincial or national attention, significantly increase the organization's revenue or profile, or the commemoration of a place, person or historical event related to the museum's location or theme.

A one-time Special Project Grant of up to \$10,000 may be considered towards hosting a quarterly anniversary event (25th, 50th, 75th, 100th etcetera) ineligible for consideration under the HRM Regional Special Events Grants Program.

(c) Capital Grant: a one-time maximum award of up to \$25,000 per eligible applicant to support:

(i) the acquisition, maintenance, or capital improvements to fixed assets owned by the applicant including land, buildings, vehicles, and equipment;

(ii) the acquisition of an artifact of social, cultural or historical significance the value of which is verified by an independent appraisal;

(iii) the commission or purchase of an original work for the museum's permanent collection or site the value of which is verified by an independent appraisal; or

(iv) the design and construction of an exhibition or display. Preference may be given to permanent installations.

(2) Organizations eligible for a grant pursuant to this Administrative Order but ineligible for an Operating Grant under section 8 are eligible to apply for a non-recurring Project Grant.

11. Organizations may make application to, and receive funding from, any combination of the Project Grant funding sub-categories in any given year.

Eligibility

12. To be eligible for consideration for a grant pursuant to this Administrative Order, the applicant:

(a) shall be a registered non-profit community, cultural, educational or recreational organization, or a registered charitable organization;

(b) shall be located within the geographic boundary of HRM;

(c) shall have been registered as a non-profit community, cultural, educational or recreational organization, or charity and operated a community museum for a minimum of three (3) consecutive years;

(d) shall be an operator of a community museum that meets the eligibility criteria set out in section 13;

(e) shall have legal title to the collection it houses in its museum on a permanent basis; and

(f) shall own, lease or license the property that the museum occupies, with a minimum of three (3) years remaining in any lease or license agreement as of the date of the application.

13. To be eligible as a community museum under this Administrative Order, the museum shall:

(a) be open to the public a minimum of three (3) months per year, and publicize its hours of operation to the general public; and

(b) maintain separate financial records covering museum operations, as distinct from any other activities of the applicant.

(c) Repealed

14. Repealed.

15. Applicants who are currently party to a separate funding agreement with HRM are ineligible for funding under this Administrative Order.

16. For greater certainty, the following are ineligible for consideration for funding under this Administrative Order:

(a) federal, provincial, municipal, institutional, corporate and private museums;

(b) Repealed;

(c) linguistic or heritage societies that do not own a collection;

(d) broad-based cultural or membership-based advocacy organizations;

(e) stand-alone archives;

(f) libraries;

(g) art galleries; or

(h) interpretive centres that do not meet the criteria of a museum in terms of the depth or significance of the collection, exhibit development, engagement in research and related educational programming.

Application Requirements

17. There is one intake period per fiscal year. The intake period and application deadline will be established by staff and advertised on the application form and associated materials and the HRM website.

18. All applications must be received by mail or drop-off to:

(a) by mail: Community Museums Grant Program
Halifax Regional Municipality
PO Box 1749, Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 3A5

(b) by courier or in-person drop-off to any HRM Customer Service Centre as listed on the official application form, Attention: Community Museums Grant Program, Halifax Regional Municipality; or

(c) by email to the address provided on the application form and/or program materials.

19. Late or incomplete applications will not be reviewed or considered.

20. For an initial application for a grant pursuant to this Administrative Order, an applicant must provide:

(a) a complete application form signed by two members of the Board of Directors;

(b) itemized financial statement for the previous three (3) years of operation with expenditures directly associated with museum operations clearly separated from any other function of the applicant;

(c) proof of non-profit or charitable status in good standing as of the date of application;

(d) articles of incorporation, including mission statement;

(e) a statement identifying any other municipal, provincial or federal government funding including indirect or in-kind assistance with documentation to support the monetary value of assistance or a clear description of same;

(f) proof of ownership of the property, or a copy of lease or license agreement as applicable; and

(g) a signed statement attesting to the ownership of the collection.

(h) Repealed

21. (1) A community museum that is receiving an Operating Grant may make a subsequent application to change the level of Operating Grant received, based on a change in status.

(2) Repealed.

21A. (1) Where an applicant has received sustainable funding up to a maximum of three (3) consecutive years in accordance with section 9, the applicant shall be required to re-apply for a subsequent Operating Grant.

(2) For an application for a subsequent Operating Grant in accordance with subsection (1), an applicant must provide:

(a) confirmation that there has been no change to the articles of incorporation or mission statement, or ownership of the collection, or must provide documentation addressing any changes thereto;

(b) updated lease or license for the property, or confirmation of continued ownership;

(c) updated proof of non-profit or charitable status in good standing as of the date of application; and

(d) updated statement identifying any other municipal, provincial or federal government funding including indirect or in-kind assistance with documentation to support the monetary value of assistance or a clear description of same.

Eligible and Ineligible Expenses

22. (1) An Operating Grant may be used for core recurring operating expenses as defined in clause 22(2) and expenses incurred in a recurring observance day event hosted by the museum or an unrelated community -based non-profit organization.
- (2) Repealed
- (3) Expenses associated with on-site retail operations may be considered if:
- (a) they are integral to the visitor experience;
 - (b) the product is linked to the museum's interpretive theme(s); and
 - (c) the revenues generated are directed to support museum operations.
23. (1) Regular Project Grants may be used to pay for a combination of expenses, not exceeding \$5,000 in total, associated with one or more non-recurring initiatives, including:
- (a) exhibit hosting or development;
 - (b) staff or volunteer training in museum practice;
 - (c) community-based research or self-publishing;
 - (d) independent professional services for any of the following: design and/or fabrication fees, legal fees, strategic planning, building condition and lifecycle planning, building conservation report, energy, safety or accessibility audit, environmental assessment, program evaluation, or an appraisal of an artefact or building for insurance or conservation purposes;
 - (e) defined programs or services; and
 - (f) a non-recurring event, including an online event, organized by the applicant that reflects the museum's focus on the community in which it is located or the museum's specialized theme for which application has not been made to the HRM Special Events Grants Program.
- (2) Special Project Grants may be used to pay for expenses incurred in hosting or the development of a non-recurring exceptional, unique, or commemorative project, excluding an expenditure eligible for consideration under subclause 10(1)(c) Capital Grant.
- (3) Capital Grants can be used to pay for project-specific non-recurring expenses not covered by an Operating Grant such as but not limited to:
- (a) acquire, maintain or improve fixed assets such as land, buildings, vehicles or equipment excluding the acquisition of municipal surplus real property or leasehold improvements; and
 - (b) acquire or commission an original work of art or an artifact of historical or cultural significance for the museum's permanent collection.

- (4) Applications related to capital improvements to a municipally registered heritage property shall include Heritage Planner approval with the application.
- (5) Expenses not included in this section may be considered on a case-by-case basis.

24. Grants shall not be used for the following purposes:

- (a) expenditures unrelated to the operation of a community museum, its programs or services;
- (b) remuneration to a member or officer of the applicant's Board of Directors;
- (c) salaries and wages, benefits, mandatory contributions or employment-related benefits to full and part-time employees, except as outlined in section 22(1)(b)(v);
- (d) consulting fees to a member of staff or member of the Board of Directors;
- (e) debt retirement other than a mortgage;
- (f) investments or savings;
- (g) awards or prizes, banquets, dinners, receptions, souvenirs, personal gifts, or donations;
- (h) scholarships or bursaries;
- (i) the purchase of goods for resale;
- (j) Repealed
- (k) fundraising and fundraising events;
- (l) lease, insurance, registration, inspection, repairs or maintenance of a private vehicle;
- (m) retroactive expenditures or pre-payment of expenditures for goods and services to be utilized in the following fiscal year;
- (n) private events, marketing, trade or consumer events, seminars, clinics, symposium, an awards event, a sporting event, political event, or conference;
- (o) events that occur prior to April 1st of the respective fiscal year;
- (p) leasehold improvements; or
- (q) costs, associated with the purchase of a surplus municipal property or a lease or license of municipal property.

Application Evaluation

25. The following criteria shall be used to evaluate applications for Council's consideration:

- (1) for an Operating Grant:
 - (a) the incremental impact of municipal funding;

- (b) the extent of public access;
 - (c) the significance of the collection;
 - (d) the applicant's demonstrated standards of practice, including completion of the Museum Evaluation Program or formal application to or acceptance into the program as applicable;
 - (e) confirmation of property ownership, lease or license agreement, or letter of agreement and the terms attached thereto;
 - (f) all municipal, provincial and federal government funding, including any indirect or in-kind assistance to museum operations;
 - (g) the proportional cost of museum operations as distinct from unrelated or ancillary programs and services;
 - (h) reliance on volunteer labour and self-directed fundraising or earned revenues;
 - (i) financial stewardship as demonstrated through the submission of itemized financial statements; and
 - (j) outstanding obligations of the applicant to the municipality, including overdue reporting as part of a grant program, tax or rent arrears, and any other amounts owed to the municipality.
- (1A) The evaluation of applications for a subsequent Operating Grant shall consider the criteria in subsection 25(1), and may give preference to applicants that have participated in organizational capacity-building initiatives aimed at achieving or maintaining acceptable standards of museum practice, maintained public access, and that are not in receipt of government operating assistance.
- (2) for a Project Grant:
- (a) the incremental impact of municipal funding; and
 - (b) the extent to which an enhancement to a facility or the delivery of an event, program or service facilitates public access to the museum and its amenities and its collection, improves the visitor experience, operating efficiencies, remediates or reduces a safety risk, or advances diversity and inclusion.

Application Review Process

26. Applications shall be reviewed by staff and a recommendation report submitted to the HRM Grants Committee, for recommendation to Regional Council.
27. Applicants will be notified promptly if their application is ineligible.
28. Final approval of all applications for a grant, and the amount thereof, is a decision of Council at its sole discretion.
29. Approval of grants is conditional upon Council's approval of the annual program budget.
30. Owing to limited funds, not all eligible applicants may receive funding.

31. Notification of the decision of Council will be communicated to applicants.

Conditions of Approval and Payment of Grants

32. Grant monies will be dispersed in full upon approval of the application.

33. (1) The recipient of a multi-year Operating Grant shall provide an annual report to the municipality that includes the prior year's financial statement and a brief summary of expenses and activities supported by the municipality's grant, including a description of the impact of the municipality's grant on the museum and the collection, within 30 days of the date stated in the award notification letter.

(2) Failure to submit a report for an Operating Grant may result in a pro-rated reduction in the value of award in successive years.

(3) The recipient of a Project Grant shall confirm completion of the project, or status, and proof of expenditures on the form provided by the Municipality by March 31st.

(4) Organizations in default of the program's reporting shall have 30 days to remediate after which eligibility for project funding may be suspended for the subsequent fiscal year.

34. Repealed

35. In the event that the operations of the applicant cease or are diminished, or should a project, in part or in whole, not be completed as described in the application, applicants must notify the municipality and may be required to repay all or some portion the grant.

Review

36. Prior to the expiration of the term of this grant program, the Chief Administrative Officer may provide a report and recommendations to Regional Council to consider repeal, continuation, or amendment.

General

37. Nothing in this Administrative Order shall be interpreted to limit or otherwise prescribe Council's general discretion to provide grants under the *Halifax Regional Municipality Charter*.

Done and passed in Council this 5th day of June, A.D. 2018.

Mayor

Municipal Clerk

I, Kevin Arjoon, Municipal Clerk of the Halifax Regional Municipality, hereby certify that the above noted Administrative Order was passed at a meeting of the Halifax Regional Council held on June 5th, 2018.

Kevin Arjoon, Municipal Clerk

Notice of Motion: May 22, 2018
Approval: June 5, 2018

Amendment #1

Notice of Motion: July 21, 2020
Approval: August 18, 2020

Amendment #2

Notice of Motion: December 15, 2020
Approval: January 12, 2021

Amendment #3

Notice of Motion: April 5, 2022
Approval: April 12, 2022

Amendment #4

Notice of Motion: June 6, 2023
Approval: June 20, 2023
