



**CITY OF HAMILTON**  
**CORPORATE SERVICES DEPARTMENT**  
**Financial Planning, Administration and Policy Division**

<b>TO:</b>	Chair and Members Public Works Committee
<b>COMMITTEE DATE:</b>	February 19, 2021
<b>SUBJECT/REPORT NO:</b>	Canada Healthy Communities Initiative Intake One (FCS21020) (City Wide)
<b>WARD(S) AFFECTED:</b>	City Wide
<b>PREPARED BY:</b>	John Savoia (905) 546-2424 Ext. 7298
<b>SUBMITTED BY:</b>	Brian McMullen Director, Financial Planning, Administration and Policy Corporate Services Department
<b>SIGNATURE:</b>	

**RECOMMENDATION(S)**

- (a) That the Hamilton Street Art Festival 2021 Project be approved as the City of Hamilton's submission for consideration to the Community Foundations of Canada for the requested funding amount of up to \$250,000 in accordance with the terms and conditions associated with the Canada Healthy Communities Initiative;
- (b) That the Mayor and City Clerk be authorized to execute all necessary documentation, including Funding Agreements to receive funding under the Canada Healthy Communities Initiative with content satisfactory to the General Manager, Finance and Corporate Services, and in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor;
- (c) That the City Solicitor be authorized and directed to prepare any necessary by-laws for Council approval, for the purpose of giving effect to the City's acceptance of funding from the Canada Healthy Communities Initiative for the Hamilton Street Art Festival 2021 Project;
- (d) That copies of Report FCS21020 be forwarded to local Members of Parliament; and,
- (e) That staff report back on a recommended project for the City to submit to the second intake to the Canada Healthy Communities Initiative expected in May 2021.

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

On February 9, 2021, the Government of Canada, in conjunction with the Community Foundations of Canada (CFC) and the Canadian Urban Institute (CUI), announced the launch of the first application intake for projects under the Canada Healthy Communities Initiative (CHCI).

The CHCI supports communities as they create and adapt public spaces, and programming and services for public spaces to respond to ongoing needs arising from COVID-19 over the next two years. This \$31 M investment from the Government of Canada will fund small-scale infrastructure projects to create safer, more vibrant and inclusive Communities

The initiative is supporting projects under three main themes:

### **Creating safe and vibrant public spaces**

- Projects that create or adapt existing public places such as parks, main streets and indoor spaces that encourage safe cultural or physical activities and local commerce.

### **Improving mobility options**

- Projects that permit physical distancing through permanent or temporary changes that make it easier for people to get around in their communities, whether walking, biking, accessing public and private transit or other modes of transportation.

### **Digital solutions**

- Innovative digital projects that address changing community needs through the use of data and connected technologies.

The Application Guide places a strong emphasis on community engagement and equity in considering the impact of proposed projects in public space.

Funding for the CHCI is being repurposed from existing funding for a second Smart Cities Challenge competition to support communities in dealing with the immediate and ongoing challenges posed by COVID-19.

CFC was selected by Infrastructure Canada to work directly with communities to identify and fund local projects and solutions to the challenges presented by COVID-19. As such, CFC is currently accepting applications for project funding. The first intake for applications will close on March 9, 2021 at 5:00 pm (PST). Review committees will start meeting to make decisions from March 10, 2021 onwards and all applicants will receive results by April 30, 2021.

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Applicants can apply for funding ranging from \$5 K to \$250 K for eligible projects within an overall envelope of \$31 M in federal government funding. Local governments and a variety of community-led organizations are eligible to apply. Eligible applicants can submit one application per intake. Eligible expenses must be incurred between April 1, 2020 and June 30, 2022.

Projects funded by the CHCI must be in the local communities' public interest by operating in public space and for public benefit. Projects in public space take place in any space owned or operated by a municipality, the provincial or federal government (e.g. sidewalk, streets, park, recreation centre) or non-commercial organization (e.g. non-profit or educational institutions) or Indigenous communities. Projects for the public benefit include projects serving specific communities that have been disproportionately affected by COVID-19.

Four projects were identified and evaluated based upon staff's interpretation of the project approval assessment criteria, as specified within the application process and the CHCI Program Guidelines. These projects included Gage Park Children's Discovery Garden, Hamilton Collaborative Talent Zone, The Public Space and Public Wi-Fi Connectivity Project and the Hamilton Street Art Festival 2021. Based on alignment with the assessment criteria, opportunities for city-wide impact and project timelines, Report FCS21020 seeks Council's endorsement of the Hamilton Street Art Festival 2021 Project, with a cost of up to \$250,000, to be submitted under the CHCI program first intake.

Refer to the Analysis and Rationale for Recommendation(s) section of Report FCS21020 for more details of the recommended project and how it aligns with the Program's assessment criteria.

A second application round for the CHCI will take place starting in May 2021 and will close June 25, 2021 at 5:00 pm (PST). Applicants who did not receive funding in round one may re-apply to round two but will not be guaranteed funding. Staff are recommending that staff report back on a recommended project for the second intake.

**Alternatives for Consideration – N/A**

**FINANCIAL – STAFFING – LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

**Financial:** No financial impact is anticipated as the Hamilton Street Art Festival 2021 project, with a cost of up to \$250,000, would be fully funded from the requested grant. Should the City not receive CHCI funding, the project will not be implemented in 2021.

**Staffing:** No impact as project administration to be managed within current staff complement.

**Legal:** It is anticipated that the City will be required to enter into a funding agreement to receive CHCI grants and may need to enter into other ancillary agreements or pass by-laws to receive funding.

## **HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

The Canada Healthy Communities Initiative (CHCI) supports communities as they create and adapt public spaces and programming and services for public spaces to respond to ongoing needs arising from COVID-19 over the next two years. This \$31 M investment from the Government of Canada will fund small-scale infrastructure projects to create safer, more vibrant and inclusive communities. Community Foundations of Canada (CFC) and its network are working alongside the Canadian Urban Institute (CUI) and other partners to deliver the Healthy Communities Initiative locally.

The CHCI encourages community-level innovation and improvements in the quality of life for residents. As local communities continue to adapt to COVID-19, local governments and community partners across the country in urban, rural and remote communities are discovering new ways to keep residents safe and healthy, support economic recovery and rebuild communities to be pandemic-resilient.

The CHCI supports communities through small-scale local infrastructure projects as they create and adapt public spaces and programming and services for public spaces to respond to ongoing needs arising from COVID-19. The minimum funding amount for projects is \$5 K and the maximum funding amount is \$250 K for each project.

There will be two application rounds of funding applications. Applicants who did not receive funding in the first round can reapply for funding in round two but will not be guaranteed funding. The first intake for applications will close on March 9, 2021 at 5:00 pm (PST). Review committees will start meeting to make decisions from March 10, 2021 onwards and all applicants will receive results by April 30, 2021. A second application round for the CHCI will take place starting in May 2021 and will close June 25, 2021 at 5:00 pm (PST).

Local governments and a variety of community-led organizations are eligible to apply. Eligible applicants can submit one application per intake. Eligible expenses must be incurred between April 1, 2020 and June 30, 2022.

Organizations that have applied are welcome to partner with multiple other organizations submitting independent applications. For example, a municipality can submit an application for a project and also partner with multiple grassroots organizations in their community who are submitting projects as long as the municipality is not the lead applicant on the other applications. Supporting other applications will not affect the partner's chances to receive funding on a project that they may choose to submit independently.

Several eligible community not for profits associated with the City including the Business Improvement Areas (BIAs), the Waterfront Trust and the Hamilton Bike Share Inc. that may apply to the first CHCI intake would be doing so as the lead applicant.

## **POLICY IMPLICATIONS AND LEGISLATED REQUIREMENTS**

The recommended project is in keeping with the Art in Public Places Policy and, if implemented, may address action items identified in the Indigenous Strategy and Mayor's Task Force on Economic Recovery.

## **RELEVANT CONSULTATION**

The following departments provided project proposals for submission consideration under the CHCI Intake:

- Healthy and Safe Communities Department
- Planning and Economic Development Department
- Public Works Department
- City Manager's Office

## **ANALYSIS AND RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION(S)**

To be eligible under CHCI, all applications must meet the basic eligibility criteria. Applications that meet the eligibility requirements will be evaluated based on the evaluation criteria. These criteria include the project rationale, community engagement, outcomes and project implementation and readiness.

Projects must fulfill all the following criteria for consideration:

- Submitted by an eligible organization and provides documentation;
- Responds to needs arising from COVID-19;
- Creates or adapts public spaces or programming or services for public spaces in the public interest;
- Demonstrates consideration of and connections within the community;
- Serves the general public or a community disproportionately impacted by COVID-19;
- Falls within the Healthy Communities Initiative theme(s);
- Submitted with a complete budget;
- Is requesting between \$5 K and \$250 K; and
- Incurs expenses between April 1, 2020 to June 30, 2022.

Projects that would be considered ineligible for funding include but are not be limited to:

- Partisan, political or election-related activities.
- Research projects where findings are not, or are not intended to be, tangibly applied as an outcome of the project. For example, carrying out a feasibility study without intending to carry out the project.
- Publication of books or reports.
- Projects that solely sponsor other organizations' events or activities.

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- Research and development for a for-profit endeavour.
- Projects that benefit only private interests or are implemented only on private property.
- Projects that promote a for-profit entity or its products and service.

Four identified projects were evaluated based upon staff's interpretation of the project approval assessment criteria, as specified within the application process and the CHCI Program Guidelines. As such, Report FCS21020 seeks Council's endorsement of the Hamilton Street Art Festival 2021 Project to be submitted under the CHCI program.

The Hamilton Street Art Festival 2021 Project includes the commissioning and installation of a series of ten to fifteen large works of street art and ancillary improvements in public places across the city. The street art installations will enhance public places including historic commercial corridors, community parks, trails and escarpment stairs. An important component of the Project will be enhancing the space beneath the Claremont Access and Jolley Cut bridges located at the base of the escarpment along the Escarpment Rail Trail and new Keddy Access Trail. The bridge supports will be painted and with the installation of additional lighting and features, overall safety will be enhanced in these spaces, already used informally by the local community, to create an inviting venue for outdoor community programming in summer 2021. Project costs of up to \$250,000 will be considered.

Arts works will be commissioned to address the themes of health, resilience and inclusion. The City will hire local organizations to work with local communities and artists to directly undertake this work. These organizations will include Black, Indigenous and People of Colour (BIPOC) lead community groups and the Concrete Canvas Festival who have already been working with the City on various projects including the successful 2019 Concrete Canvas Fest.

If awarded, projects will be planned in April and May and implemented over the months of June, July and August with COVID appropriate unveilings and celebration events occurring throughout this period.

Tourism and Culture staff have been working with an interdepartmental staff team to identify appropriate locations for street art and placemaking projects across the City as part of ongoing work for the Placemaking Grants Program and the Art in Public Places Policy. These sites will be offered to the engaged community groups and Concrete Canvas as possible locations in consultation with local community stakeholders.

Staff carefully assessed projects for the best alignment with the CHCI Program's funding selection criteria. The following chart outlines how the Hamilton Street Art Festival 2021 Project meets the CHCI evaluation criteria so that it may receive strong consideration for funding approval from the Community Foundations of Canada.

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<b>CHCI Evaluation Criteria</b>	<b>Hamilton Street Art Festival 2021 Project</b>
Responds to needs arising from COVID-19	This project will provide the public with meaningful, uplifting and celebratory collective cultural experiences in safe outdoor locations where physical distancing can be maintained and few cultural assets currently exist.
Creates or adapts public spaces, or programming or services for public spaces in the public interest	These projects will transform underutilized and often vandalized public spaces into public places that will become new destinations for all Hamiltonians. Places that feel safe and inviting and where we share our collective stories of recovery and resilience.
Demonstrates consideration of and connections within the community	These projects have been identified and recommended through ongoing community consultation as part of the development and approval of the City's Art in Public Places Policy, Placemaking Grant Program and Indigenous Strategy. As projects develop, the community will be involved with the creation of the work in the Community Art process and local artists in a legal street art wall project. Citizens and stakeholders will be consulted in the development of the design and programming for each site. The celebration and interpretation of the work will also be shared in-person when COVID appropriate and on-line through social media.
Serves the general public or a community disproportionately impacted by COVID-19	A minimum of two of the art works will be commissioned as Community Art projects lead by the BIPOC community groups who will hire artists to work directly with the impacted communities to design and implement art works sharing their unique experience with the general public. A legal Street Art wall project will be implemented where young artists can experiment and be mentored by more experienced artists. A specific mentoring program for BIPOC artists will be part of this project. Many of the sites are located within walking distance of lower income and high-density areas of the City where enhanced public space and free access to culture will promote health and wellness.
Falls within the Healthy Communities Initiative Theme(s)	Safe and Vibrant Public Spaces Improving Public Mobility Options

Other eligible community organizations in the City maybe applying to this program. It is expected that various BIA's and the Hamilton Bike Share Inc. will be making applications that include the City as a secondary partner.

## **ALTERNATIVES FOR CONSIDERATION**

N/A

**ALIGNMENT TO THE 2016 – 2025 STRATEGIC PLAN**

**Healthy and Safe Communities**

Hamilton is a safe and supportive City where people are active, healthy, and have a high quality of life.

**Clean and Green**

Hamilton is environmentally sustainable with a healthy balance of natural and urban spaces.

**Built Environment and Infrastructure**

Hamilton is supported by state-of-the-art infrastructure, transportation options, buildings and public spaces that create a dynamic City.

**Culture and Diversity**

Hamilton is a thriving, vibrant place for arts, culture, and heritage where diversity and inclusivity are embraced and celebrated.

**APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED**

N/A

JS/dt