



**CITY OF HAMILTON**

**PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT  
Downtown and Community Renewal Division**

<b>TO:</b> Mayor and Members General Issues Committee	<b>WARD(S) AFFECTED:</b> WARD 2
<b>COMMITTEE DATE:</b> March 22, 2011	
<b>SUBJECT/REPORT NO:</b> One-Time Grant to the Regeneration Institute for the Great Lakes for the Purpose of Establishing a Storefront Engagement Centre in Downtown Hamilton (PED11059) (Ward 2)	
<b>SUBMITTED BY:</b> Tim McCabe General Manager Planning & Economic Development	<b>PREPARED BY:</b> Hazel Milsome 905-546-2424 x 2755
<b>SIGNATURE:</b>	

**RECOMMENDATION:**

- a) That a one-time grant in the amount of \$60,000 be approved for the Regeneration Institute for the Great Lakes (led in part by McMaster University and the Canadian Urban Institute) for the purpose of establishing a Storefront Engagement Centre in Downtown Hamilton.
- b) That the one-time grant referenced in sub-section (a) above be funded from the Economic Development Investment Fund Reserve 112221.
- c) That the Mayor and City Clerk be authorized and directed to execute a grant agreement with respect to sub-section (a) above in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Report PED11059 advances on action resulting from the 2010 Hamilton Economic Summit held on May 17, 2010, when delegates supported the need to renew Hamilton's restorable assets, particularly in the Downtown.

Report PED11059 recommends a one-time grant in the amount of \$60,000, funded from the Economic Development Investment Fund, to the Regeneration Institute for the Great Lakes (ReIGL) for the purpose of establishing a Storefront Engagement Centre. ReIGL will implement a pilot project through the storefront devoted to the following three (3) broad objectives related to regeneration in Hamilton:

- i) education and training for local regeneration leaders and practitioners;
- ii) grassroots community engagement in cataloguing local restorable assets (built and natural); and,
- iii) celebration of indigenous arts and culture that make Downtown Hamilton distinctive and attractive to people and investment.

ReIGL is an emerging educational entity with a commitment to active learning, outreach, process before product, imaginative partnerships, public engagement and uncovering, or "daylighting" the distinct features of a place and implementing solutions for regenerating excellence in communities in the Great Lakes region. It is a partnership of:

- The ArcelorMittal Dofasco Centre for Engineering and Public Policy at McMaster University
- The Centre for the Built Environment at Seneca College
- The Canadian Urban Institute

Details of the partners' contribution to the Storefront Engagement Centre are contained in the Analysis/Rationale section of Report PED11059.

In October/November 2011 ReIGL will review the results and determine what the next public profile will be (another storefront, a campus presence, a more permanent space etc). The review will be undertaken in concert with City staff, private and public sector interests, engaged residents and others. This recommended funding will in no way commit the City to future funding.

The ReIGL Storefront Engagement Centre will be supported through a partnership comprising ReIGL, the City of Hamilton and the Hamilton Economic Summit.

*Alternatives for Consideration – See Page 6.*

**FINANCIAL / STAFFING / LEGAL IMPLICATIONS** (for Recommendation(s) only)

**Financial:** City Council at its meeting held December 10, 2007 approved an enhanced Economic Development budget including the establishment of an Economic Development Investment Fund to be used for future strategic initiatives related to economic development. The \$60,000 one-time grant for the ReIGL Storefront Engagement Centre will be funded from the Economic Development Investment Fund Reserve 112221. The Reserve had a balance of \$1,487,082.94 on December 31, 2010.

**Staffing:** There are no staffing implications in this Report.

**Legal:** Section 107 of the Municipal Act, 2001, allows a municipality to make grants on such terms as to security and otherwise as the Council considers appropriate to any person, group or body, including a fund within or outside the boundaries of the municipality for any purpose council considers to be in the interests of the municipality.

**HISTORICAL BACKGROUND** (Chronology of events)

The Hamilton Economic Summit (HES) is a leadership initiative facilitated by the Hamilton Chamber of Commerce in co-operation with the City of Hamilton and a myriad of other public and private sector partners. The 2010 Economic Summit focused on Hamilton's large inventory of restorable assets and resulted in garnering delegates' support to act on local regeneration opportunities especially in the Downtown. The proposed ReIGL Storefront Engagement Centre is a tangible action that will assist in meeting this objective.

ReIGL proposes undertaking a time-certain (April to October/November 2011) Storefront Engagement Centre as a place of welcome, outreach and activity. As such it will be a laboratory of practice within the City. Staffed by professional academics, along with graduate students, technologists, artists and talented local individuals, the storefront will:

- Uncover with residents, retailers and others the "naturally occurring cultural districts and neighbourhoods" of Hamilton
- Record existing, often taken for granted assets which define the distinctness of Hamilton
- Walk the streets of Downtown Hamilton at all hours of the day and week to acknowledge, through the psycho-geography process, the City's changing features
- Invite people into the storefront to interpret their own place in the city through on-line tools and dialogue
- Engage youth and the creative class in events, lectures and pictures imagining the influence of David Byrne's childhood Hamilton on his later renowned Bicycle Diaries, musical group "Talking Heads" film "True Stories" etc.

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- Stage low key works of artistic brilliance from music to magic, drawing to dance and poetry to puppetry

### **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

The one-time grant to ReIGL does not meet the program criteria for the City's Community Partnership Program that provides financial assistance or event road closure services to community organizations whose services benefit Hamilton residents. The program is geared to organizations involved in social services, sports/recreation, culture and special events. However, Section 107 of the Municipal Act, 2001, allows a municipality to make grants on such terms as to security and otherwise as the Council considers appropriate to any person, group or body.

At the time of writing Report PED11059, ReIGL had not identified a specific location for the Storefront Engagement Centre however, they are most interested in inhabiting a vacant storefront on James Street North. Once a location has been identified staff will ensure the use meets zoning requirements.

### **RELEVANT CONSULTATION**

Staff from the Finance and Administration Division, Corporate Services Department and the Legal Services Division, City Manager's Office, were consulted and concur with the recommendations included in Report PED11059.

### **ANALYSIS / RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION**

(include Performance Measurement/Benchmarking Data, if applicable)

ReIGL is a partnership of:

- The ArcelorMittal Dofasco Centre for Engineering and Public Policy at McMaster University
- The Centre for the Built Environment at Seneca College
- The Canadian Urban Institute

ReIGL will operate, for a time-certain period, a Storefront Engagement Centre in which neighbourhood, community and downtown groups are welcomed, supported and encouraged to participate in a series of discreet collaborative regeneration activities. It will have three specific deliverables as follows:

1. The Urban Leaders Regeneration Level 1 Certificate – as awarded by ReIGL and consisting of a two-day session covering the following topics:

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- (a) Regeneration as the next wave of urban success in which city assets (known, hidden, historic and potential) are identified.
- (b) Making sense of regeneration as something beyond a repair strategy for city assets in which built infrastructure and the eco productivity of place are integrated for civic success.
- (c) Playing the regeneration game in which models from elsewhere are studied and local municipal intention is matched with private and public investment.
- (d) Metrics to measure current status and progress towards a constantly regenerating future.

Participants will choose between several options for further review including:

- Renewing and re-naturalizing the built environment
  - “Daylighting” and restoring hidden or lost assets
  - Climate change challenges for future regeneration initiatives
  - Advancing a neighbourhood imperative within naturally occurring cultural districts
  - Watershed stewardship
2. Regeneration Champions “Discovery and Celebration” – ReIGL will identify as part of its storefront activities a cross-section of regeneration champions at a public event(s).

The initial event is meant to encompass the breadth of initiatives in the City, rather than to rank order their significance. As such, it will serve as a model for the types of projects to be recognized in the future. ReIGL will recommend a more formal process through which champions would be nominated and a selection process would be undertaken. As a start, champions will be recognized at this year’s Hamilton Economic Summit on May 12, 2011.

3. Artists for Adhesion – ReIGL will advance details for a place-based, artistic event co-ordinated through self-selected alliances in Hamilton. The actual content of this event will emerge from the storefront activities described above. Its intent, however, would be to recognize the distinctness of Hamilton, its extraordinary local talent, and the means by which the artistic community celebrates the power of creativity in shaping the City’s identity and attractiveness.

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ReIGL's budget breakdown for the aforementioned is as follows:

<b>Expenditures:</b>		<b>Total Cost:</b>
Project Management:		\$80,000
Student stipends		\$9,000
Office chairs		\$500
Work stations		\$1,000
Conference table		\$500
Workshop chairs		\$1,000
Storage, filing		\$600
Display materials		\$500
White board		\$400
Laptops including software		\$1,500
Office rental, utilities, telephone		\$20,000
Curriculum Development for level one training (Regeneration Certificate)		\$10,000
Level One Certificate training		\$15,000
Project administration		\$3,000
	10 participants from City of Hamilton	\$0
Contingency		\$2,000
	<b>Total Expenditures:</b>	<b>\$145,000</b>
<b>Income:</b>		
McMaster: Project Management		In kind: \$30,000
Seneca: Project Management		In kind: \$30,000
City of Hamilton		\$60,000
BARC (proposed)		\$10,000
HES (proposed)		\$5,000
Registration Fees for Regeneration Certificate	\$200/day x 5 days x 10 participants	\$10,000
	<b>Total Income:</b>	<b>\$145,000</b>

**ALTERNATIVES FOR CONSIDERATION:**

(include Financial, Staffing, Legal and Policy Implications and pros and cons for each alternative)

Non-acceptance of the recommendations contained in Report PED11059, or reducing the amount of the grant, would undermine the intent of the Storefront Engagement Centre. These alternatives are not recommended.

**Financial:** A one-time grant in the amount of \$60,000 would not be issued.

**Staffing:** Not applicable.

**Legal:** Not applicable.

**CORPORATE STRATEGIC PLAN (Linkage to Desired End Results)**

Focus Areas: 1. Skilled, Innovative and Respectful Organization, 2. Financial Sustainability, 3. Intergovernmental Relationships, 4. Growing Our Economy, 5. Social Development, 6. Environmental Stewardship, 7. Healthy Community

***Growing Our Economy***

- ◆ Investment in Hamilton is enhanced and supported.

***Healthy Community***

- ◆ Partnerships are promoted.

***Environmental Stewardship***

- ◆ Regenerating the built and natural environments.

**APPENDICES / SCHEDULES**

N/A.

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