



Council Report

Report Number: ED2024-027
Meeting Date: June 25, 2024
Title: Economic Development Fund 2024
Description: 2024 allocation of the Economic Development Fund
Author and Title: Rebecca Mustard, Manager Economic Development

Recommendations:

That Report ED2024-027, **Economic Development Fund 2024**, be received; and
That the unallocated funds of \$134,790.35 be transferred to the General Contingency Reserve at year end and available for funding the Programs in a subsequent year.

Department Head: _____

Financial/Legal/HR/Other: _____

Chief Administrative Officer: _____

Background:

The Economic Development Fund (CP2024-001) was established in 2024 to support Not-For-Profit organizations operating within the City of Kawartha Lakes for the benefit of the residents and visitors of the City in the focus areas of local economic development and culture.

The Fund provides funding for organizations to advance the strategic priorities of the municipality as detailed in the Kawartha Lakes Strategic Plan, Kawartha Lakes Cultural Master Plan, Kawartha Lakes Economic Development Strategy, and other associated plans or policies.

The Fund supports the stability and sustainability of local organizations, supporting their contribution to the community while ensuring organizations retain their independence.

The Fund is designed to strengthen partnerships between the City and local organization for the betterment of the economic vibrancy of the City.

The Economic Development Fund requires Guidelines to be developed for specific funding Programs.

In 2024, three funding Programs were offered:

- Cultural Facilities Operational Support Grant
- Local Economic Development Support Grant
- Summer Tourism Experience Fund

This report provides information on the allocation of these funds.

Rationale:

As the inaugural year of the Economic Development Fund, the program is considered to be off to a strong start with applications to all three (3) Programs.

Following Council approval of the Economic Development Fund policy in March 2024, Program Guidelines, application forms, and evaluation processes were established. Applications to the Programs launched in April, and funds are expected to be released to eligible organizations in June.

Below is a summary of the 2024 Economic Development Fund Programs and funding approval decisions.

1. Cultural Facilities Operational Support Grant

The Cultural Facilities Operational Support Grant will provide operational funding to Cultural Not-for-Profit organizations within the City of Kawartha Lakes, who offer community cultural initiatives to residents and visitors. These initiatives play a pivotal role in developing cultural, place based activities, learning opportunities, thus sharing and celebrating the arts, culture and heritage assets within the City of Kawartha Lakes. Eligible organizations are for Not-For-Profit Cultural organizations that have a facility from which they offer public programming. Further eligibility details are provided in the Program Guidelines.

In 2024, Council approved a total budget of \$200,000 for this Program. The Program provides grant funding of up to 25% of operating costs (fixed costs or staffing) or \$20,000, whichever comes first. The funds are to be used towards fixed operating costs and/or fixed staffing costs incurred in 2024.

A total of nine (9) applications were received. Two (2) applications were deemed ineligible; Maryboro Lodge/Fenelon Falls Museum Board and A. Sheila Boyd Foundation. Both are certainly cultural facilities offering public programming from a facility in Kawartha Lakes and substantial contributors to the cultural sector. Maryboro Lodge/Fenelon Falls Museum Board is a Committee of Council, and is not a separate entity to the City of Kawartha Lakes. It is recommended that funding support for Maryboro Lodge/Fenelon Falls Museum Board be addressed separately through the Budget process. The A. Sheila Boyd Foundation is a Foundation, and as per the Program Guidelines, Foundations are ineligible.

Table 1 – Cultural Facilities Operational Support Grant

Organization Name	Community	Funding Received
A. Sheila Boyd Foundation	Bobcaygeon	\$0.00
FLATO Academy Theatre	Lindsay	\$20,000.00
Gamiing Nature Centre	Bobcaygeon	\$20,000.00
Globus Theatre	Bobcaygeon	\$20,000.00
Kirkfield Museum Historic Society	Kirkfield	\$5,075.00
Manvers Historical Society	Bethany	\$1,116.75
Maryboro Lodge/Fenelon Falls Museum Board	Fenelon Falls	\$0.00
Settlers Village	Bobcaygeon	\$14,440.00
The Grove Theatre	Fenelon Falls	\$20,000.00
Total Recommended		\$100,631.75

2. Local Economic Development Support Grant

The Local Economic Development Support Grant provides operational funding to Not-For-Profit organizations within the City of Kawartha Lakes, emphasizing the significance of hyper-local, place-based initiatives. These initiatives play a pivotal role in fostering a sense of community pride, contributing to the overall economic development of the individual communities. Eligible organizations are Not-For-Profit organizations that are delivering local economic development initiatives. Further details of eligibility are detailed in the Program Guidelines.

In 2024, Council approved a total budget of \$100,000 for this Program. The Program provides grant funding of up to 25% of operating costs (fixed costs or staffing) or \$20,000, whichever comes first. The funds are to be used towards fixed operating costs and/or fixed staffing costs incurred in 2024.

A total of eight (8) applications were received. Three (3) applications were deemed ineligible; Big Brothers Big Sisters Kawartha Lakes Haliburton, Kawartha Haliburton Children’s Foundation, and Kinmount Community Volunteer Management Committee.

Big Brothers Big Sisters Kawartha Lakes Haliburton did not have a clear local economic development mandate. Kawartha Haliburton Children’s Foundation did not have a clear local economic development mandate, and, Foundations are not eligible for the Fund. The Kinmount Community Volunteer Management Committee is a Committee of Council, and is not a separate entity to the City of Kawartha Lakes. It is recommended that this Committee be addressed separately with their request through the Budget process.

Table 2 – Local Economic Development Support Grant

Organization Name	Community	Funding Received
Big Brothers Big Sisters Kawartha Lakes Haliburton	Lindsay	\$0.00
Bobcaygeon and Area Chamber of Commerce	Bobcaygeon	\$20,000.00
Coboconk, Norland and Area Chamber of Commerce	Coboconk	\$20,000.00
Environmental Action Bobcaygeon Inc.	Bobcaygeon	\$2,667.90
Kawartha Haliburton Children's Foundation	Lindsay	\$0.00
Kawartha Works Community Co-operative	Fenelon Falls	\$2,000.00
Kinmount Community Volunteer Management Committee	Kinmount	\$0.00
Pinnguaq Association	Lindsay	\$20,000.00

Organization Name	Community	Funding Received
Total Recommended		\$64,667.90

3. Summer Tourism Experience Fund

This fund was established during the pandemic as an Empower project to support the tourism economy by enhancing the services provided by local Chambers of Commerce in their summer visitor ambassador programs. The Chambers of Commerce have a long history of providing on the ground visitor information services in communities in partnership with the municipal Kawartha Lakes Tourism program.

Chambers of Commerce are eligible to receive up to \$15,000 for Summer Tourism Ambassador Staff and associated programming. The annual funding for this Program is included in the Economic Development Operating Budget.

All (4) Chambers of Commerce applied to this fund.

Table 3 – Summer Tourism Experience Fund

Organization Name	2024 Funding Request	Approved Funding
Bobcaygeon and Area Chamber of Commerce	\$14,910.00	\$14,910.00
Coboconk Norland and Area Chamber of Commerce	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00
Fenelon Falls and Area Chamber of Commerce	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00
Lindsay and District Chamber of Commerce	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00
Total Recommended		\$59,910.00

Other Alternatives Considered:

The funding approved in 2024 meets the requirements of each Program Guideline and the Council Policy.

Staff have received correspondence from the A. Shield Boyd Heritage Foundation requesting a reconsideration of their eligibility citing their primary purpose to be the operation of the Boyd Museum and building. It is beyond the authority of Staff to approve this application and request. Council may wish to approve this request, in which case an additional Recommendation may read:

That the A. Shield Boyd Heritage Foundation being an organization that is structured as a Foundation for the purpose of operating and maintaining the Boyd Heritage Museum be approved for eligible funding of \$11,865.18.

Alignment to Strategic Priorities

The Economic Development Fund Programs are designed to support organizations in their operating and/or project related programs that advance the Kawartha Lakes Strategic Plan, Kawartha Lakes Cultural Plan, and/or Kawartha Lakes Economic Development Strategy, and other municipal strategies or policies.

The recommendations within this Report and the 2024 Economic Development Fund Programs implements the strategic priorities within the 2024-2027 Kawartha Lakes Strategic Plan, namely;

1. An Exceptional Quality of Life
2. A Vibrant and Growing Economy
3. Good Government

Financial/Operation Impacts:

The 2024 Economic Development Fund was funded through the 2024 Operating Budget. The total funding available was \$360,000 with specific amounts allocated to each program. A total of \$225,209.65 was approved.

Cultural Facilities Operational Support Grant

2024 Funding Allocation	\$200,000.00
2024 Funds Approved	\$100,631.75
Total Remaining	\$ 99,368.25

Local Economic Development Support Grant

2024 Funding Allocation	\$100,000.00
2024 Funds Approved	\$ 64,667.90
Total Remaining	\$ 35,332.10

Summer Tourism Experience Grant

2024 Funding Allocation	\$60,000.00
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2024 Funds Approved	\$59,910.00
Total Remaining	\$90.00

As per the Economic Development Fund Policy, the remaining unallocated funds of \$134,790.35 will be transferred to the General Contingency Reserve at year end and available for funding the program in a subsequent year(s).

Consultations:

Economic Development Officer-Arts and Culture
Economic Development Officer-Community
Financial Services Supervisor - Treasury
Executive Assistant, Community Services

Attachments:

Appendix A – Economic Development Fund Policy



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Appendix B – Cultural Facilities Operational Support Grant Program Guidelines



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Appendix C – Local Economic Development Support Grant Guidelines



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Appendix D – Summer Tourism Experience Fund Guidelines



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Department Head: Leah Barrie, Director Development Services