



Council Report

Report Number: CAO2025-004
Meeting Date: February 18, 2025
Title: **Partnership Agreement – Kawartha Art Gallery**
Description: Partnership Agreement between the City of Kawartha Lakes (CKL) and Kawartha Art Gallery (KAG) to deliver community arts programming, and structure municipal operating funding support.
Author and Title: Ron Taylor, Chief Administrative Officer

Recommendation(s):

That Report CAO2025-004, **Partnership Agreement – Kawartha Art Gallery**, be received;

That the Partnership Agreement, substantially in the form provided in Appendix A to Report CAO2025-004, be approved; and

That the Mayor and Clerk be authorized to execute the Partnership Agreement with the Kawartha Art Gallery.

Department Head: _____

Financial/Legal/HR/Other: _____

Chief Administrative Officer: _____

Background:

At the Special Council meeting of February 2, 2023, representatives from the Kawartha Art Gallery (KAG) provided an overview of KAG programs and operations, and requested three-year financial support from the City totaling \$225,000.

Council approved \$50,000 in funding for KAG in the 2023 budget (and endorsed the same base funding amount annually for 2024 and 2025).

At the April 9, 2024 Committee of the Whole meeting, KAG provided an updated business case that included relocation of the Gallery to a downtown Lindsay location, and expanded community programming (see Appendix B). The business case proposed increased municipal funding of \$200,000 annually over three years (2024-2026).

Council subsequently approved and provided \$200,000 annually to KAG through the 2024 and 2025 City budgets.

Recognizing that the partnership includes a multi-year City funding commitment, it was recommended that the City and KAG should enter into a more formal partnership agreement. This report brings forward to Council a recommended partnership agreement for approval.

Rationale:

KAG was incorporated as a not-for-profit charity in 1976. Approaching 50 years of local arts programming, KAG continues to thrive and grow. The municipality has in the past, provided support funding and space in the Lindsay Library Branch as support for KAG operations.

KAG recently attended the 2025 ROMA conference, including a trade hall display highlighting KAG and other local arts programming in the City of Kawartha Lakes. At that same conference, KAG and City delegates met with Minister Cho to advocate for rural arts and culture funding, and highlighting our local partnerships as key contributors to tourism, a healthy local economy, and community health and well-being.

Council has committed to current and future funding of KAG operations. It is therefore appropriate to establish funding and partner expectations, including reporting, through an agreement (see Appendix A).

The initial recommended agreement has a three-year term, ending December 31, 2026, recognizing funding commitments made to-date. The intent is to revisit and update partnership arrangements at least each term of Council. It is expected that any

operating funding for KAG beyond 2026 would be requested prior to the partnership agreement lapsing.

Other Alternatives Considered:

No other alternative has been considered, as Council has already committed operating funding for KAG.

Alignment to Strategic Priorities

Formalizing this partnership with KAG contributes to the strategic priority of Good Government, and specifically the stated action of "... collaborate with other community builders, partners and institutions." Strategic investments in arts, culture and tourism partners contributes greatly to a Vibrant and Growing Economy.

Financial/Operation Impacts:

This agreement outlines funding committed to KAG to continue to provide and expand local arts programming to the benefit of the City and local economy. This agreement is also intended to identify reporting and deliverables for funding in an accountable and transparent manner.

Consultations:

City Solicitor
Director, Corporate Services
Manager, Economic Development
Executive Director, Kawartha Art Gallery

Attachments:

Appendix A – DRAFT Partnership Agreement – Kawartha Art Gallery



Partnership
Agreement - Kawarth:

Appendix B – Kawartha Art Gallery Business Case (Updated) – April 9, 2024



Appendix B -
Business Case

Department Head email: rtaylor@kawarthalakes.ca

Department Head: Ron Taylor, CAO