

## **Investment Funding Programs - 2016 Allocation Recommendation for Community Legacy Initiative Grant Program**

**Date:** March 27, 2017

**To:** Community Development and Recreation Committee

**From:** Executive Director, Social Development, Finance and Administration

**Wards:** All

### **SUMMARY**

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This report recommends the allocation of funding for one multi-year Community Legacy Initiative (CLI) project to Aluna Theatre.

Aluna Theatre has been creating innovative performances on pressing social issues from a Pan-American perspective for over 15 years. For the past five years, Aluna has convened local and international festivals to build cultural bridges among Latin American, Indigenous, and mainstream artists and audiences. Their grant request builds on this foundation to create a legacy.

The Community Legacy Initiative is one of three grant streams under the Host City Showcase Program's Pan Am Community Projects initiative, approved by Council in August 2014.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

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The Executive Director, Social Development, Finance and Administration recommends that City Council approve an allocation of \$100,000.00 to Aluna Theatre from the Community Legacy Initiatives grant program.

### **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

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The recommendations in this report will have no impact beyond what has already been approved in the current year's budget.

## DECISION HISTORY

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This fund was approved by Council in April 2014, as part of the Pan Am Games Community Legacy Fund Initiative. Link to Pan Am Fund background:

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2014.EX44.11>.

A portion of funds was allocated to support projects which profile and provide longer-term economic and/or social infrastructure benefits for Toronto's Latin American community. A smaller portion of the earlier grant was re-allocated by Council toward a legacy project that will build the Hispanic Latin American community, along with a recommendation from community members to implement an alternate grant making approach, led by a Community Selection Committee. Link to Council Decision:

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2016.CD12.6>.

## ISSUE BACKGROUND

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CLI has invested \$785,000 in four (4) projects which profile and provide long-term economic and/or social infrastructure benefits for Toronto's Latin American, South American and Caribbean communities.

The re-issuing of a grant call ensured the successful investment of these funds. City staff consulted with colleagues in Equity Diversity and Human Rights on how to craft an inclusive process for the grant call that will help achieve the goal of the Community Legacy Initiative Funds.

A Community Selection Committee (CSC) was formed through an application process in a targeted call out to the Latin American community. Applicants were selected based on their experience and knowledge of community granting and access equity and human rights, as well as their involvement with the Latin American community.

The CSC was comprised of two community members who have involvement with not-for-profit, Latin American agencies, a foundation funder, and two academics.

The Community Selection Committee has been involved in all aspects of the grant process which included developing the grant process, application, short listing of applications, hosting a clinic for short listed applicants and making a grant recommendation based on the presentations of the short listed groups

## COMMENTS

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Applicants were asked to demonstrate that they met the objectives of the grant call and to establish how their project would address and/or advance: quality of life and well-being, address intersectional issues, build capacity, leadership and development, facilitate knowledge exchange, strengthen networks and partnerships, decrease marginalization, and create inclusive spaces for community dialogue.

## Recommended Allocation

Four applications were shortlisted from the call for a letter of intent (see appendix A for details). The CSC recommends Aluna Theatre, as the organization has met the above objectives and is recommended for the Community Legacy Grant for \$100,000.

Aluna Theatre creates and produces socially challenging theatre that brings awareness to issues of equity, immigration, refugees and displacement and the search for integration. Aluna is proposing to provide youth and family-based educational programming on social issues related to performance.

Aluna Theatre will outreach to the community through Aluna Café Readings, radio-based theatrical plays, and through a series of professional development workshops related to performance and production.

It is estimated the grant will support 100 artist related activities, 450 youth, and 12,200 audience participants. Aluna has secured \$36,000 of in-kind resources.

These activities over a two year period would result in:

- 1) stronger presence and enhanced employment opportunities for Latin Canadian artists
- 2) higher levels of cross cultural dialogue between businesses, artists, communities and academics
- 3) a growing sense of identity and belonging
- 4) increased civic engagement, volunteerism and arts patronage
- 5) the strengthening of a local organization that is shaping art in Toronto through its hemispheric perspective, inclusivity, intersectionality and artistic excellence.

The grant would be used to support an outreach co-ordinator, outreach costs and community conversations (café, radio plays and festivals).

The grant expenditures and project activities will be monitored by City staff. Aluna Theatre will provide an outcome-based report at the end of year one and year two's activity completion.

## CONTACT

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Barbara Powell, Manager, Community Funding  
Social Development, Finance and Administration  
Phone: 416.397.7302 Fax: 416.392.8492 Email: [barbara.powell@toronto.ca](mailto:barbara.powell@toronto.ca)

**SIGNATURE**

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Chris Brillinger  
Executive Director  
Social Development, Finance and Administration

**ATTACHMENTS**

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Community Legacy Initiative - Summary of Recommended Shortlisted Letters of Intent