

City Council

Motion without Notice

MM45.32	ACTION			Ward: All
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Authority to Enter Into and Execute a Services Agreement with DART for a study on best practices for the ethical collection, archiving and dissemination of digital assets - by Councillor Michael Thompson, seconded by Councillor Gary Crawford

** Notice of this Motion has not been given. A two-thirds vote is required to waive notice.*
** This Motion is subject to referral to the Executive Committee. A two-thirds vote is required to waive referral.*
** This Motion has been deemed urgent by the Chair.*

Recommendations

Councillor Michael Thompson, seconded by Councillor Gary Crawford, recommends that:

1. City Council authorize the General Manager Economic Development and Culture or designate to negotiate and execute, on behalf of the City of Toronto, a services agreement with DART in the amount of \$56,976.86 net of all applicable taxes and charges for services to support a Museum and Heritage Services project focused on sharing best practices for digitization of heritage collections and the ethical collection, archiving and dissemination of oral histories for the Museum and Heritage Services collection, on such terms and conditions satisfactory to the General Manager, Economic Development and Culture and in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor.
2. City Council increase the 2022 Approved Operating Budget for Economic Development and Culture by \$56,976.86 gross, \$0 net, fully funded by a Museums Assistance Program grant from the Department of Canadian Heritage to deliver the project.

Summary

For the past several years, Museum and Heritage Services in the Economic Development and Culture division has been reimagining and rethinking what "community heritage" means in the context of the City museums. In 2019, Museum and Heritage Services sought and received federal funding as part of the Museums Assistance Program for a project as part of Museum and Heritage Services' ongoing efforts to indigenize the City of Toronto's heritage collections (the "Project"). The initiative began and then paused due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Ongoing commitment to advancing and supporting Reconciliation and equity led to more emphasis on collecting and amplifying voices that have historically not been represented in Toronto's museums, including Indigenous ones. At present, Museum and Heritage Services is focused on the ethics around the collection of oral histories and is seeking to create an engaging, interactive digital platform to feature these historically unheard voices as well as the digitization and dissemination of Museum and Heritage Services' collection.

DART, a non-profit corporation is a well-respected design firm specializing in digital media concept, design and development for the cultural, charitable and public sectors. DART has a unique skill set and was engaged for the Project due to their ability to develop, apply for and implement grant proposals for museums that develop and create new approaches to multi-lingual, digital story telling. Further, DART has a commitment to equity, diversity and inclusion. They are particularly notable for their passionate approach to access and inclusion, and have worked with people with disabilities and diverse communities to create, explore and audit websites and apps.

As part of the Project, DART will complete group workshops on the topic of oral histories, ethics and museums, record workshops and share results, provide one-on-one training sessions for project participant as well as, design and lead 5 action research initiatives with participating museums and create a digital interactive toolkit for museum professionals.

Funding to cover the service agreement with DART will be from the Museums Assistance Program grant.

This Motion is urgent because it recommends an increase to the 2022 Approved Operating Budget for Economic Development and Culture, to be fully funded by a Museums Assistance Program grant from the federal Department of Canadian Heritage. The City sought and was approved for federal funding from the Museums Assistance Program but the initiative was paused due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This Motion will enable the City to receive and apply the federal funding now that the program has resumed.

Background Information (City Council)

Member Motion MM45.