

Authority to Enter into a Nominal Fee Licence Agreement with Jumblies Theatre and Elder Duke Redbird

Date: April 5, 2023

To: Infrastructure and Environment Committee

From: General Manager of Parks, Forestry and Recreation

Wards: 10 - Spadina - Fort York

SUMMARY

The report seeks authority to enter into a nominal fee licence agreement with Jumblies Theatre, a registered charity, and Elder Dr. Duke Redbird to facilitate Indigenous cultural programming on a section of parkland on Toronto Island Park.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation recommends that:

1. City Council authorize the General Manager of Parks, Forestry and Recreation to negotiate and sign on behalf of the City a nominal fee licence agreement with Jumblies Theatre, a registered charity, and Elder Dr. Duke Redbird to facilitate Indigenous cultural activities at Toronto Island Park, for a term from June 1, 2023 to October 9, 2023, renewable for an additional two similar seasons at the sole discretion of, and on terms and conditions acceptable to, the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation, and in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor, and subject to the licence referenced in Recommendation 2.
2. City Council authorize the General Manager of Parks, Forestry and Recreation to provide consent to Toronto Island Marina, to provide a licence for the use of the Blockhouse Bay docking wall by Jumblies Theatre, a registered charity, and Elder Dr. Duke Redbird for a term from June 1, 2023 to October 9, 2023; and for an additional two similar seasons, if the licence at Toronto Island Park is renewed at the sole discretion of the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Jumblies Theatre and Elder Dr. Duke Redbird will pay nominal licence fees for the use of the parkland from June 1 to October 9, 2023. During this period, there are no additional costs to Parks, Forestry and Recreation from the execution of this license agreement.

The Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer has reviewed this report and agrees with the financial implications as identified in the Financial Impact section.

DECISION HISTORY

At its meeting on April 6, 2022, City Council adopted the Reconciliation Action Plan as a guide to future discussions and directed the City Manager to ensure implementation of strategic actions in the Plan in accordance with the 2022 Year One Work Plan.

<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2022.EX31.1>

COMMENTS

Elder Dr. Duke Redbird of the Saugeen First Nation is an established public intellectual, poet, painter, broadcaster, and filmmaker, and an Artist in Residence at the Urban Indigenous Education Centre of the Toronto District School Board.

Elder Dr. Redbird, in collaboration with Jumblies Theatre, a Toronto-based non-profit arts group and registered charity, wishes to use approximately 3,000 square feet of park space in Toronto Island Park, near the dock wall along the west side of Blockhouse Bay, for Indigenous cultural programming. Activities would include, but are not limited to, knowledge sharing, story-telling, performances, artistic events, public "ask an Elder" drop-in programming intended to spread Indigenous knowledge in the larger population, and school tours intended to spread Indigenous knowledge among students. They propose to erect a teepee as they have in other locations.

For logistical support and to create a visual attraction, the program would be supported by the Wigwam Chi-Chemung, Elder Redbird's floating art installation, studio, office, and Indigenous interpretive learning centre. It tells the story of Indigenous presence on Toronto's waterfront. The forty-foot pontoon boat has been covered with artwork by Elder Dr. Redbird and Philip Cote, a noted painter and muralist from Moose Deer Point First Nation. The Wigwam Chi-Chemung has appeared at public locations in Toronto such as Ontario Place.

The Wigwam Chi-Chemung would be moored to the dock wall under a separate agreement with the Toronto Island Marina, which manages the dock wall under an agreement with the City. The marina's agreement with the City requires the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation to provide consent for a longer-duration use of the dock wall.

The parkland near to the boat would serve as the programming space during the summer and early fall months until October 9, 2023, to engage visitors to the park as well as school groups during the school year. The proposed agreement would include access to public water source, and the erection of temporary signs determined by Elder Dr. Redbird and Jumblies in collaboration with Parks, Forestry and Recreation to promote the program.

The proposed licence arises from Parks, Forestry and Recreation discussions with members of the City's communities, including various members of Toronto's diverse Indigenous Communities. Parks, Forestry and Recreation believes that the proposed licence, on the terms proposed, for the use of the specified premises within Toronto Island Park for the provision of Indigenous cultural activities, would be of value in advancing Action 16 – Celebrate Indigenous Arts and Culture of the [City of Toronto Reconciliation Action Plan](#). The program also supports the aims of the Toronto Island Master Plan.

Under this arrangement, Jumblies Theatre as an incorporated non-profit would secure insurance naming the City as additional insured, and provide other services including promotion and programming support.

The licence would require the licensee to ensure public foot traffic along the dock wall would not be impeded, and that other boaters moored along the dock wall would continue to have access to parkland adjacent to their boats.

CONTACT

Christina Iacovino, Director, Client and Business Services, Parks, Forestry and Recreation Tel: 416-392-8578 Email: christina.iacovino@toronto.ca

Alex Deighan, Manager, Partnerships and Business Services, Parks, Forestry and Recreation Tel: 416-338-5123 Email: alex.deighan@toronto.ca

SIGNATURE

Janie Romoff
General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Sketch of Proposed Licenced Area, Toronto Island Park