

Information Report



Service Area	Public Services
Date	Friday, October 23, 2020
Subject	Community Benefit Agreement 2019 Report

Executive Summary

Purpose of Report

To update Council on the contributions the City of Guelph makes as part of our Community Benefit Agreements and the impacts on the community.

Key Findings

Community Benefit Agreements (CBAs) are an important part of the Community Investment Strategy (CIS) to clarify the range of collaborations that the City enters into with community organizations. Historically, agreements have emerged organically as the City entered into a variety of multi-year agreements with community organizations over several years. CBAs allow the City to formalize and standardize these agreements.

CBAs have proven to be a cost-effective way of working with community benefit organizations in ways that foster innovation and leverage resources and collaborations already well positioned in the community. Regardless of the specific work under a CBA, it is clear that CBAs support a range of City goals, across a number of different departments, and impact a significant number of residents and volunteers.

Based on some of the indicators provided for work done in 2019, it was found that CBAs overall directly impacted a minimum of:

- 180,562 residents cumulatively
- \$2,307,000 in resources leveraged for the community from other partners and funders
- 51,329 volunteer hours equivalent to an estimated \$1,385,883 based on Conference Board of Canada's conservative estimate of the value of volunteering (2018)

Financial Implications

Funds for the CBAs were approved in the 2019 Budget. In 2019, the City invested \$1,810,000 into 15 CBAs.

Report

Details

The City's contribution to improve the quality of life of Guelph residents is embedded in the CIS, which was updated in September 2019. The CIS provides a transparent and responsive decision-making framework to guide the full range of mutually beneficial relationships between the City and Guelph's community benefit sector in pursuit of community and City goals, and responsible stewardship.

The revised CIS responds to the needs of Guelph's residents, the community benefit sector, and the City. It recognizes that the community benefit sector is a valuable economic driver in Guelph. It also recognizes that the City alone cannot achieve our goals and relies on a strong sector to work towards the City's new goals and strategies collaboratively. The revised CIS proposes a reframing of community investment to better align with the corporate goals of the City's Community Plan and Strategic Plan.

CBAs are an important part of the CIS to honour and clarify the range of collaborations that the City enters into with community organizations. They provide a consistent, transparent, and accountable framework for the City to invest in this significant work, through developing mutually beneficial relationships with eligible organizations, to help achieve the broader goals and objectives of the City's plans and strategies.

CBAs are entered into based on changing needs of the community and to leverage new opportunities as they emerge. Over time, some existing CBAs may be phased out to make room for new initiatives that would be mutually beneficial to the City and the organization. The decision-making for which CBAs to support rests with senior managers and the Public Services Deputy Chief Administrative Officer to maintain flexibility and staff connection to the work of the CBAs. Under the CIS, Council can direct staff to explore potential CBAs and determines the total budget envelope for CBAs overall.

Historically, agreements have emerged organically as the City entered into a variety of multi-year agreements with community organizations over several years. The CIS and CBAs allow the City to formalize and standardize these and future agreements to ensure consistency and transparency in the negotiation, implementation, and evaluation of those agreements.

At the core of the CBAs is that supporting organizations to conduct important work in the community with support from the City, or on behalf of the City, is often more effective and efficient than if the work were done internally at the City. In this way, the CBAs ensure a more effective use of municipal investment.

CBAs have proven to be a cost-effective way of working with community benefit organizations in ways that foster innovation and leverage resources and collaborations already well positioned in the community.

Community Impact

Overall, every CBA is different and developed to find a balance between the needs of the City and where the investment could have the greatest impact on the lives of Guelph residents. CBAs range from supporting service and system coordination, to

on-the-ground supports for neighbourhood residents, youth, and families, to arts organizations creating community vitality, to commemorating Guelph's rich civic history. Regardless of the specific work under a CBA, it is clear that CBAs support a range of City goals, across a number of different departments, and impact a significant number of residents and volunteers.

The following represent a brief summary of agreements and work done in 2019. Note that one-time agreements that were approved in the budget for 2019 are not included in this report. Also note that how organizations have adapted to the COVID-19 pandemic will be included in next year's report. Based on some of the indicators provided in 2019, it was found that CBAs overall directly impacted a minimum of:

- 180,562 residents cumulatively
- \$2,307,000 in resources leveraged for the community from other partners and funders
- 51,329 volunteer hours equivalent to an estimated \$1,385,883 based on Conference Board of Canada's conservative estimate of the value of volunteering (2018).

All CBA recipients must submit annual workplans, reports, and financial statements to the City of Guelph to ensure the responsible use of municipal funding. The following is a list of 2019 CBA supported initiatives:

- Art Gallery of Guelph
- Canadian Mental Health Association – Waterloo Wellington (Seniors at Risk)
- Children's Foundation of Guelph Wellington (Free to Grow)
- Guelph Arts Council
- Guelph Community Health Centre (Wellington Guelph Drug Strategy)
- Guelph Community Health Centre (Toward Common Ground)
- Guelph Humane Society
- Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition
- Guelph Wellington Seniors Association
- Kindle Communities Inc. (Shelldale Centre)
- The PIN People and Information Network (Volunteer Police Checks)
- Rotary Club of Guelph (Canada Day Celebration)
- Royal Canadian Legion of Guelph (Remembrance Day Commemoration)
- Wellington Dufferin Guelph Public Health (Poverty Task Force)
- Wyndham House (Youth Emergency Shelter)

Further detail about the objectives of each of the CBAs can be found in the attached summary.

Financial Implications

Funds for the Community Benefit Agreements were approved in the 2019 budget. In 2019, the City invested \$1,810,000 into 15 community benefit agreements.

Community Benefit Agreements change slightly year over year based on cost of living increases defined by the Consumer Price Index. Statistics Canada Consumer Price Index is based on a percentage change between June of the current year and June of the previous year. This percentage change is then applied to the CBA

investment as part of the following year's budget process to support the sustainability of initiatives.

Consultations

CBA Recipients

CBA staff liaisons in Public Services

Strategic Plan Alignment

The strategy directs the City of Guelph to "continue to build strong, vibrant, safe, and healthy communities that foster resilience in the people who live there". Our community benefit sector in Guelph is already heavily engaged in this work. The CBAs highlighted in this report are supporting the City of Guelph to achieve this priority among others.

Attachments

Attachment-1: CBAs Summary Report 2019 Attachment

Departmental Approval

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