SUBJECT: Financial Assistance to Hamilton Artists Inc. (City Wide)  
(GRA05011) – Outstanding Business Item T

RECOMMENDATION:

(a) That the request for a one time grant in the amount of $18,000 for the Hamilton Artist’s Inc. to cover renovation expenses be denied.

(b) That this item be removed from the Outstanding Business List (Item T) of the Corporate Administration Committee.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The Hamilton Artists Inc. has submitted a request to Mayor Dilanni dated 29 July 2005 for funding to compensate for unforeseen renovation expenses at their new facility. The request was received by Council on 14 September 2005.

The Community Partnership Program Policies and Procedures states that grant requests for deficit funding or capital expenditures will not be considered.

BACKGROUND:

In 2005, the Grants Sub-Committee committee members recommended and Council approved program funding for the Hamilton Artist’s Inc. in the amount of $25,000.

In addition to their 2005 request for program funding, the Hamilton Artist’s Inc. also requested one-time funding in the amount of $18,000 to $20,000 to fund unforeseen costs of the renovation of the new facility. The request was received by Council on 14
September 2005. Council directed the General Manager of Finance and Corporate Services to prepare a report to the Corporate Administration Committee.

Staff have made contact with the organization and has learned that the bulk of the request is for winter needs, specifically insulation and a proper ceiling cover. Hamilton Artists Inc. drew staff attention to the fact that they have a long term lease and this is the first time they have asked the City for capital assistance in their 30 year history.

**ANALYSIS/RATIONALE:**

At this time, current policies and procedures under the Community Partnership Program do not allow for the funding of capital projects or deficits. There are many not for profit arts programs in this community that have significant capital expenditure pressures. Approval of this request may be precedent setting and could result in many other requests for support.

**ALTERNATIVES FOR CONSIDERATION:**

Committee may choose to change the existing policy to consider capital and/or deficit funding. It can be anticipated that this change will cause significant additional funding requests and pressure on the existing program budget.

**FINANCIAL/STAFFING/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS:**

Financial Implications

Currently there are no unallocated funds available from the 2006 Community Partnership Program. The balance in the Community Partnership Program reserve is $11,293.

Staffing Implications – None

Legal Implications - None

**POLICIES AFFECTING PROPOSAL:**

Policy changes adopted by the Grants Sub-Committee as of 2003 state that applications for capital projects or deficit funding would not be eligible under the Community Partnership Program, but that the Grants Sub-committee may consider such requests an ad hoc basis. In this case, the direction to reconsider the request came from City Council (14 September 2005).

**RELEVANT CONSULTATION:**
This report was prepared in consultation with representatives from the Hamilton Artists Inc.

**CITY STRATEGIC COMMITMENT:**

Investments from the Community Partnership Program assist the City in achieving its goal of being a great city in which to live by providing quality community services. The recommendation in this report also supports the actions and strategies of Vision 2020 by enhancing the quality of life for children and providing opportunities for learning for both the child and caregiver. Finally, the Social Development Strategy identifies the specific need to support opportunities for people to come together for social, educational or cultural purposes. The Hamilton Artists Inc. and its programs assist in achieving this goal.

By evaluating the “Triple Bottom Line”, (community, environment, economic implications) we can make choices that create value across all three bottom lines, moving us closer to our vision for a sustainable community, and Provincial interests.

**Community Well-Being is enhanced.**    ☐ Yes  ☑ No

**Environmental Well-Being is enhanced.**    ☐ Yes  ☑ No

**Economic Well-Being is enhanced.**    ☑ Yes  ☐ No

Ensures wise expenditures and consistent application of the Community Partnership Program.

Does the option you are recommending create value across all three bottom lines?    ☐ Yes  ☑ No

Do the options you are recommending make Hamilton a City of choice for high performance public servants?    ☐ Yes  ☑ No
July 29, 2005

Mayor Larry DiIanni
City of Hamilton
71 Main Street West
Hamilton, Ontario
L8P 4Y5

Dear Mr. DiIanni,

Thank you for your time, attention and interest in Hamilton Artists Inc., city’s artist-run centre and the city’s “other” publicly funded art gallery. Further to our meeting on Wednesday, July 27th, I enclose in short form the information requested for your council meeting scheduled for August 10th, 2005.

(1) Hamilton Artists Inc. is the other gallery in the city that receives federal and provincial money as does the Art Gallery of Hamilton and pays professional artist fees as prescribed by the Canadian Artists Representation Association
(2) Hamilton Artists Inc. is celebrating its 30th Anniversary in 2005
(3) Hamilton Artists Inc. has never approached the city for capital assistance

Specifically we are asking the city to assist us in covering unforeseen renovation expenses at our new location. These capital expenses will be renegotiated into our lease arrangement as “leaseholds”.

a) We are asking for an amount between $18,000 and $20,000 for our renovations

Also, further to the direction of our organization in seeking to institutionalize the organization and secure the future and legacy of the organization for working artists of the city of Hamilton, we would formally request an opportunity to approach the Future Fund for assistance to this end.

Attached is a letter of support from Louise Dompiere, CEO, Art Gallery of Hamilton regarding the review process of our current grant from the City of Hamilton. Louise recognizes and supports that it is an infrastructure of cultural organizations that will strengthen the quality of life in the city and thus the economic attraction and engine of the region.

I thank you for your assistance and look forward to the Council’s response. As mentioned, we would like to undertake these renovations in August to enable a smooth transition into our fall season; therefore an expedient reply would be greatly appreciated. Wishing you and the Councilors well with your important work for our city, I remain,

Sincerely,

Donna Lee Macdonald
Administrative Director

New Address: 3 Colbourne Street, P.O. Box 37047, Hamilton, Ontario L8R 2R1
June 24, 2005

City of Hamilton
Community Partnership Program
Hamilton, Ontario

Dear Members of the Community Partnership Program:

I would like to draw to your attention the importance to generously invest in Hamilton Artists Inc., our City's artist-run centre.

Hamilton Artists Inc. like artist-run centres across Canada, plays an essential role in the cultural life of the Hamilton. In fact, one of its most important roles consists in offering young and emerging artists their first opportunity to show their work publicly and to their peers in a highly professional context. Hamilton Artists Inc., like the Art Gallery of Hamilton, is recognized through federal and provincial funding as one of this City's essential art organizations; however, federal and provincial funding alone is insufficient to enable it to play its role fully.

It has been brought to my attention that our centre's funding is less than other comparable centres across Canada. I would like to strongly encourage you to review this situation. Hamilton's cultural organizations complement each other. Not only do they work with this City's highly talented artists but they also produce programs of the highest quality for the people of Hamilton and, increasingly, tourists. It is most important that we enable them to achieve their full potential. The benefits will be wide ranging when it comes to measuring the quality of life for all Hamiltonians.

I have met and discussed the plans of Hamilton Artists Inc. with its new Director, Donna Lee Macdonald. There should be no question that she has the ability to lead the organization to success. One of her key objectives involves a fundraising campaign that will result in the ownership of a building. In times such as these, a gallery should receive adequate funding to enable it to keep its public profile high.

I hope that you will examine the situation of this well-run organization. Please feel free to call me if I can be of any assistance.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Louise Dompierrre
President and C.E.O.
September 16, 2005

Donna Lee Macdonald
Administrative Director
Hamilton Artist's Inc.
3 Colborne Street
PO Box 37047
Hamilton, ON L8R 2R1

Dear Madame:

Re: Financial Assistance for Renovations

Council, at its meeting held September 14, 2005, considered your correspondence respecting financial assistance for renovations.

Please be advised that Council has received this correspondence and referred it to the General Manager of Finance and Corporate Services for a report to the Corporate Administration Committee.

Yours truly,

Rose Caterini, B.Com, AMCT
Deputy City Clerk/Manager of Legislative Services

RC: sr

c.c. Joe Rinaldo, General Manager, Finance and Corporate Services
Carolyn Biggs, Legislative Assistant, Corporate Administration Committee

PLEASE TAKE THE APPROPRIATE ACTION.