CITY OF HAMILTON

M O T I O N

Council Date: November 17, 2005

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR …MCHATTIE…………………………………

SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR……………………………………………………

Re: Funding for Arts Hamilton (formerly Hamilton and Region Arts Council)

Whereas, Arts Hamilton (formerly Hamilton and Region Arts Council) has functioned as an umbrella organization for all arts disciplines in the City of Hamilton for over 33 years;

Whereas, Arts Hamilton is the only organization that represents all arts disciplines;

Whereas, Arts Hamilton is the largest and oldest art council in Ontario;

Whereas, Arts Hamilton advocates on behalf of all arts disciplines; facilitates communication between arts disciplines, the City of Hamilton, and the community at large; collaborates and coordinates with arts groups so that they can do what they do best; and communicates with City Council and City staff on arts matters city-wide;

Whereas, the Ontario Arts Council grant to Arts Hamilton has been reduced over a period of years from $32,500 to $18,000; and

Whereas, the Arts Hamilton has recently produced a new Strategic Plan, covering the four pillars of program, profile, resources, and partnerships; and

Whereas, other Hamilton arts groups have expressed support for additional funding for Arts Hamilton, with the proviso that a review of Arts Hamilton’s mandate be conducted (and Arts Hamilton believes this to be a positive undertaking);

Therefore be it resolved:
1. That Council be requested to fund in the amount of $35,000 from the 2005 contingency reserve to assist Arts Hamilton to resume normal operations; participate in a mandate review, begin implementation of their new Strategic Plan, and explore long-term partnerships with the City of Hamilton;

2. That an outside consultant be hired to conduct a review on behalf of the City of Hamilton (under the direction of the Public Health and Community Services Department) of the following:
   (a) Arts Hamilton’s mandate (within the boundaries of its constitution), including but not limited to consideration of “who does what” within the Hamilton arts community,
   (b) Direction on the programs and services that arts organizations and artists wish Arts Hamilton to provide, and innovative ways in which arts groups can work together to benefit the Hamilton arts scene;
   (c) That funding in the amount of $9,500 be provided to hire the consultant;

3. That a Steering Committee be established consisting of three members of Council and staff as required to prepare Terms of Reference for the study and to guide the project to completion.

4. That funds for this initiative be allocated from the 2005 Budget Surplus.