



Committee Report

To: Warden Janice Jackson
Members of the Planning and Development Committee

From: Mark Paoli
Director of Planning and Development

Date: July 15, 2021

Re: Reconnecting Through Community Journalism Letter of Support

Staff Recommendation:

The “Reconnecting Through Community Journalism Letter of Support” report is for information.

Background:

Staff in the Planning and Development department have engaged with the Arran-Elderslie Youth Council and Trinity Theatre as part of the Workforce Development & Attraction Strategy, as a focus on action 11 “Target Youth as a potential audience”.

Trinity Theatre (<https://trinitytheatre.ca/>) is leading an application with the Arran-Elderslie Youth Council (<https://aeyouthhub.ca/>) to the Canada Healthy Communities Initiative (<https://communityfoundations.ca/initiatives/chci/>) which through grant funding is currently supporting communities as they create programming to respond to ongoing needs arising from COVID-19. Trinity Theatre has over 38 years of experience working with rural communities and is an active organization in Bruce County that has been working with the Arran-Elderslie Youth Council since they began.

Trinity Theatre Reconnecting Through Community Journalism Project is a unique youth-run, response to the concerning COVID-19 related effects of isolation in Bruce County. The pandemic has exacerbated the existing effects of geographic isolation, underutilization/ unawareness of community resources, lack of reliable internet connectivity in some areas, the experience of loneliness, and limited intra-regional community connection. The Project relies on youth building intergenerational relationships in order to celebrate the diversity of the community. The project also entails youth providing residents with local good news stories and bringing attention to the resources and opportunities that exist in Bruce County. The news gathering will happen both by meeting in-person and on-line, and will be in the form of articles, photos, videos, documentaries, and mixed media, all of which will be publicly accessible via online platforms and hard-copy newsletters and articles in local newspapers.

The letter of support from the County Director of Planning and Development (attached) is accompanying their funding application to support the “Reconnection Through Community Journalism” project.

Financial/Staffing/Legal/IT Considerations:

There are no financial, staffing, legal or IT considerations associated with this report.

Interdepartmental Consultation:

None

Link to Strategic Goals and Elements:

Goal #3 Find creative new ways to engage our public.

Goal #7 Stimulate and reward innovation and economic development.

Report Author:

Pierre Valley

Economic Development Officer, Planning & Development

Departmental Approval:

Mark Paoli

Director, Planning and Development

Approved for Submission:

Sandra Datars Bere

Chief Administrative Officer