

Background

This report is the third update to Council regarding the four Large Projects endorsed in principle by Council in April 2016. Council directed staff to investigate these projects further and provide advice about whether, and if so, how, the City of Greater Sudbury could contribute to their completion. This report provides an overview of the current status of each of the projects, as well as an outline of anticipated next steps.

Place des arts

Place des arts has actively been working on confirming other funding required for the project, as outlined in the capital budget provided to Council. A capital fundraising campaign is underway and applications to the federal and provincial government have been submitted.

In February 2017 the GSDC Board approved the second installment of \$15,000 of a two-year funding contribution totalling \$64,100 to develop the centre. This funding is to support pre-capital work in the areas of governance, regional outreach and community engagement, commercial ventures development, design and construction.

Economic Development staff have been working with Legal Services to draft a contribution agreement, based on the commitment and conditions expressed in the Council resolutions of September 13, 2016 and December 13, 2016.

Place des arts plans to conduct a soil and environmental assessment of the municipal parking lot in spring 2017. Staff from Real Estate will be working with them to allow access to the land for sampling. The results from this assessment will be used by Place des arts to issue an RFP for construction and design services.

New Main Library/Art Gallery Project

Phase I of the New Main Library/Art Gallery Project is underway. Lord Cultural Resources are working with the Joint Committee and staff from both organizations to acquire and compile information that will support the final report. The consultants conducted a 3-day site visit in mid-December to conduct interviews with stakeholders, assess the existing Main Library and AGS facilities, and conduct planning workshops with both organizations.

The consultants are now developing a Business Case for the project and will continue provide routine updates to the Joint-Committee. This report will include capital cost estimates, attendance, revenue and expense projections, functional plan, and literature review. Staff anticipates that representatives of the Joint Committee, along with the project consultants, will be in a position to present the report to Council and seek direction mid 2017. Staff also anticipates that the key decision points could reflect those proposed for the Event Centre meeting on March 7.

The Library and Gallery have established a strong working relationship through this process and, based on discussions to date, both organizations are confident regarding the feasibility of this joint venture

Synergy Convention Centre

In late 2016, the Greater Sudbury Development Corporation (GSDC) committed \$10,000 towards the advancement of this project. A portion of this funding has been used to procure the services of CBRE Tourism and Leisure Group, to complete a review of the existing reports and information, to test the assumptions used in the project planning to date and to recommend the steps required to bring the project to a decision point. This work is now underway.

In January, the GSDC Board declared the Synergy Convention Centre Project as one of Board's four priorities for 2017. The Board will receive updates on the project at each meeting and look to provide direction and support to Economic Development staff in pursuit of this opportunity.

With Council's endorsement of the project in April 2016 and the support of the GSDC Board, municipal staff are now resourcing the development of the project as well as the new Synergy Project Committee. The committee plans to review the consultant's report and determine next steps in mid-March.