

**Subject: Wood Buffalo Culture Plan****APPROVALS:****Annette Antoniak**\_\_\_\_\_  
Director\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Administrative Officer**Recommended Motion:**

1. THAT the Wood Buffalo Culture Plan, dated April 2019, be adopted as a guiding document to support and enhance arts and heritage initiatives in the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo over the next ten years.
2. THAT Administration work with the established community based advisory committee to transition from development to implementation and evaluation of the Wood Buffalo Culture Plan.

**Summary:**

The Wood Buffalo Culture Plan is a guiding document that identifies priorities and strategies that will support and enhance arts and heritage initiatives over the next ten years. The plan outlines a vision to support decision making and resource allocation and was developed in partnership between Administration and a Community Advisory Committee. The intent of the plan is to support a vibrant and sustainable community that enhances the quality of life for residents.

**Background:**

The development of the Culture Plan aligns with the strategic plan initiative #3f:

*"Develop and implement an Arts and Culture Plan through collaborative partnerships that will outline priorities that each community partner and key stakeholder, including the Municipality can use to align policies, strategies and actions to support decision making and resource allocation to maintain a vibrant, sustainable community and quality of life for current and future residents."*

The Plan was developed utilizing a community-based approach to take into consideration; community values, review existing principals and practices, benchmark other communities as well as identify Wood Buffalo Arts and Heritage Priorities. Work to develop the plan included:

- Literature review of relevant Council approved documents and other guiding documents from members of the Community Advisory Committee.
- Comparative analysis of arts and heritage facilities and programs in different regions across Alberta and Canada.
- Engagement including:
  - o Over 60 one on one interviews
  - o Visits to communities and facilities in the region
  - o Five small group sessions
  - o Fort McMurray Christmas Show and market in November
  - o Santa Claus Parade and Mayor and Councils Holly Jolly Party in December
  - o Online at [www.rmwb.ca/cultureplan](http://www.rmwb.ca/cultureplan) <<http://www.rmwb.ca/cultureplan>>

The Culture Plan presents the following vision for arts and heritage in the region:

*“Wood Buffalo is a culturally diverse and socially inclusive municipality in which arts and heritage are vital to its social, economic and environmental well being.”*

The plan has five priority areas, each having; strategies, outlining primary responsibilities and potential funding sources as well as actions, outcomes and performance indicators. These five priorities are:

- Foster healthy environment for culture: arts and heritage
- Further develop culture facilities and resources
- Support collaboration and innovation
- Encourage inclusivity and accessibility
- Improve awareness of the value of culture

**Budget/Financial Implications:**

- Approved 2018 Budget of \$149,500 for the development of the Wood Buffalo Culture Plan.
- Costs to date for the plan development total \$73,575

- 2019 approved operational funds of \$5,000 to support implementation start-up
- Detailed prioritization and phasing action plan to be developed and supported through future budget planning

**Rationale for Recommendation:**

The Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo 2018-2021 Strategic Plan identifies Support for Arts and Culture as Strategy & Initiative #3f. The development, implementation and evaluation of a culture plan through collaborative partnerships is a key deliverable for this initiative. Adoption of the Culture Plan by Council and community partners is a key performance indicator of success.

**Strategic Priorities:**

Regional Economic Development

**Attachments:**

**Wood Buffalo Culture Plan Presentation**

**1. Wood Buffalo Culture Plan**

**2. Wood Buffalo Culture Plan Proposed Action Plan**