



June 24, 2024

Dear Members of the Strategic Opportunities Review Working Group (SORWG),

I am writing in response to the proposal to suspend the London Community Grants annual Capital & Innovation Grants for the remainder of the current multi-year cycle. While the goal of identifying cost-saving opportunities is appreciated, it is important to emphasize the significant economic and social impacts these grants have on our community.

Non-profit organizations are essential pillars of our community, fostering economic development, addressing social issues, and enhancing the quality of life for residents. The London Community Grants, particularly the Capital & Innovation Grants, have been instrumental in enabling organizations like ours to initiate projects that create lasting benefits in our city. These grants empower non-profits to leverage additional funding from other sources, multiplying the initial investment and ensuring that public dollars are used efficiently and effectively.

The proposed suspension would save \$500,000 annually over the next three years, representing a 0.1% reduction in the City of London budget projections. However, the true value of these grants far exceeds their monetary cost. Here's why:

- **Social Impact:** These grants support initiatives that address critical social issues such as poverty, healthcare, education, and homelessness. Non-profits are often at the forefront of innovation in these areas, developing and implementing solutions that government programs may not be able to address as effectively. Cutting these funds could slow down or halt progress in tackling these pressing issues.
- **Economic Stimulus:** Non-profits supported by these grants often undertake projects that stimulate local economies. These projects create jobs, attract additional funding, and drive economic activity in our city.
- **Community Well-being:** The projects funded through these grants enhance the quality of life for all residents. From improved healthcare services to educational programs and cultural initiatives, the benefits are widespread and long-lasting. These initiatives create a more inclusive, supportive, and vibrant community.
- **Leverage and Efficiency:** Every dollar granted often brings in additional funding from other sources, including private donations, other grants, and in-kind contributions. This leveraging effect means the impact of the grants is magnified, providing a higher return on investment for public dollars.
- **Innovation and Capacity Building:** Capital & Innovation Grants encourage non-profits to think creatively and develop new approaches to solving community problems. They build the capacity of these organizations to deliver services more effectively and sustainably, fostering a culture of continuous improvement and resilience.



Given these significant benefits, I urge you not only to maintain but also to consider enhancing the funding for the London Community Grants. Increasing the investment in these grants would further amplify their positive impacts, driving even greater economic and social benefits for our community.

While a review process to ensure efficiency and effectiveness is always valuable, it should not come at the cost of disrupting the ongoing and potential benefits these programs deliver. By continuing and potentially increasing support for these vital grants, we can build a stronger, more resilient community that thrives economically and socially.

Thank you for considering this perspective. Your support for London Community Grants is an investment in our community's future, contributing significantly to the overall vitality of London.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kate Ledgley". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Kate Ledgley  
Executive Director  
London Children's Museum