



United Way
London & Middlesex



January 5, 2016

City of London
300 Dufferin Ave.
London, ON N6B 1Z2

Dear Mayor Brown and Council Members,

Subject: Proposed Increase to Innovation & Capital Fund

Pillar Nonprofit Network, in partnership with London Community Foundation and United Way London & Middlesex, respectfully submits our collective input on a proposed increase to the Innovation & Capital Fund. Our organizations support the over 1,800 nonprofits in the London area who contribute to the quality of life and social well-being of Londoners through arts, education, environment, faith, health, heritage, sports, and social services.

The model presented and approved at City Council on October 26, 2015 directed current funding in the amount of \$2.4 million from the Neighbourhood, Children & Fire Services base budget to municipal granting with municipal multi-year funding at \$2.3 million (2017-2019) and the Innovation & Capital Fund at \$100,000 in 2017, \$150,000 in 2018, and \$200,000 in 2019. We are in support of the \$2.3 million allocated to multi-year funding grants. However, we would request that the Innovation & Capital Fund be increased to \$500,000 by 2019, reflecting the amount allocated in previous budgets which, in 2013, our organizations advocated to maintain.

We have two requests:

1. Support and Maintain the Multi-Year Granting at \$2.3 million

We support the modernization of the municipal granting process for nonprofits and request that the level of investment follow the recommendation outlined in the report from Neighbourhood, Children & Fire Services, which allocated \$2.3

million to multi-year funding grants for nonprofits. We are in support both of the recommended amount as well as the process outlined and commend the City of London for taking these steps to provide greater stability and deeper impact in our community.

2. Increase Innovation & Capital Fund to \$500,000 over next 3 years

Our collective organizations request that City Council increase the Innovation & Capital Fund back up to \$500,000 by 2019, reflecting the amount previously allocated to this fund prior to budget cuts in 2013.

The Innovation grants would be provided to new, emerging organizations and initiatives that engage in dynamic partnerships and innovative improvements to system delivery and change. This could be for mergers, transformational change projects around specific social issues and new initiatives that require some seed funding to test a prototype or concept.

Cuts to the Capital Grant Program in 2013 have made it more difficult for nonprofits to leverage investments from other levels of government for the purchase of land or buildings as well as the renovation new or existing buildings. Municipal investment in the London Potters Guild, Aeolian Hall, SARI, Thames Valley Children's Centre, Merrymount, Palace Theatre, Royal Canadian Regiment Museum, Salvation Army Village Day Nursery and Grand Theatre from the Capital Grant Program has contributed significantly to our community. It is critical that the opportunity to leverage investments continues. Most recently, Palace Theatre and BMO Centre were looking to access capital funds from the City of London to increase their impact in our community and a request from London Children's Museum is forthcoming.

To reiterate, we would not want the \$2.3 million for multi-year granting to be impacted or lessened to achieve this increase in the Innovation & Capital Fund.

The nonprofit sector is a driver of social and economic well-being and your investment contributes to the kind of community we want to be to each and every Londoner. We understand that the City of London has many priorities. We believe this would be a very wise investment that will positively affect thousands of Londoners for many years to come.

Sincerely,



Michelle Baldwin
Executive Director
Pillar Nonprofit Network



Andrew Lockie
CEO
United Way London & Middlesex



Martha Powell,
President & CEO
London Community Foundation

cc:

Michael van Holst, Ward 1 Councillor
Bill Armstrong, Ward 2, Councillor
Mo Mohamed Salih, Ward 3, Councillor
Jesse Helmer, Ward 4, Councillor
Maureen Cassidy, Ward 5, Councillor
Phil Squire, Ward 6, Councillor
Josh Morgan, Ward 7, Councillor
Paul Hubert, Ward 8, Councillor
Anna Hopkins, Ward 9, Councillor

Viginia Ridley, Ward 10, Councillor
Stephen Turner, Ward 11, Councillor
Harold Usher, Ward 12, Councillor
Tanya Park, Ward 13, Councillor
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