

Staff Report

Presented By: Adam Parsons, Manager, Parks and Facilities

Meeting Date: June 9, 2024

Subject: Art School Lease Agreement

Attachment(s): None

Recommendation

That Council adopt By-law 61-2025, a By-law to authorize a ten (10) year Art School Lease Agreement between the Town of Saugeen Shores and the Southampton Arts Centre.

Report Summary

This report recommends a Lease Agreement with the Southampton Arts Centre for the operation of the Art School Building in Southampton. This is a ten-year (10) lease, commencing July 1, 2025, and expiring June 30, 2035. The Agreement and authorizing By-law are included in the By-laws section of the Council Agenda.

Background/Analysis

The existing ten-year lease agreement between the Town of Saugeen Shores and the Southampton Art Centre (SAC) for the Art School building expires on June 30, 2025. This building is owned by the Town and has significant heritage value. The Southampton Art School building was built in 1888 as a Mechanics Institute (library) by James Howe, town clerk and treasurer, who donated it to the Town for cultural purposes; it has served since 1957 as the Southampton Art School.

This report recommends that a ten-year Lease Agreement be approved for a term starting July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2035.

The Southampton Arts Centre leases two facilities from the Town, a portion of the Southampton Town Hall and the Art School. This agreement is solely for the Art School Building that is located adjacent the Town Hall and is an integral part of the overall Southampton Arts Centre program. It is noted that a separate [report](#) regarding Southampton Arts Centre Request for Funding was presented to Council on May 26, 2025, and that this Lease Agreement does not impact the direction provided or path forward to advance the funding as requested by the Southampton Arts Centre.

Lease payments are recommended to stay at \$2.00 per year, similar to the previous agreement. Building utility costs (hydro, heat, water/sewer) are to continue to be paid by the Lessee.

Linkages

- Strategic Plan Alignment: Pillar 4: Fostering a Vibrant Place to Live and Visit
- Business Plan Alignment: Community Services Business as Usual

Financial Impacts/Source of Funding

Cost associated with this program are contained within the existing budget.

Prepared By: Adam Parsons, Manager, Parks and Facilities

Reviewed By: Kristan Shrider, Director of Community Services

Approved By: Kara Van Myall, Chief Administrative Officer