

Living Temagami Heritage & Culture Centre

Updated Expression of Interest for the Temagami Train Station

1. Organization History

Living Temagami Heritage & Culture Centre may be a new organization, but the people running this organization are not new to community service and following through on commitments made. Each individual person has a long history of community involvement and support. Each individual person has a long list of successful events and projects they were part of or delivered for other organizations they were members of. Each person has a long history of developing resources and successful fundraising campaigns. Together the people who are Directors on this Board will make a very strong team and do everything in their power to make the Living Temagami Heritage & Culture Centre a success.

• Mission statement

Living Temagami ~ Heritage & Culture Centre connects, cultivates and engages community through the arts. Arts and culture are fundamentally linked to quality of life and to the health and wellness of all citizens, shaping identities, fostering life-long learning, promoting creativity and innovation, and engaging citizens across generations.

• Vision

Living Temagami ~ Heritage & Culture Centre envisions a vibrant, connected community engaged in discovering, exploring, and creating all art forms. The supportive power of extended family in all its definitions is embraced, as is the belief that the spirit and energy of community, and our participation in it, empowers and transforms. The warmth, enthusiasm, and unity of our cultural hub echo throughout the Temagami area. This serves as an example of the inclusive community making, kinship, and cultural expression that can be created and embraced.

• Values

Community ~ Living Temagami is a community driven organization committed to those who live, work, study, and play in the Temagami area. We incubate and provide safe, welcoming access to space, experiences, events, learning, and other resources as a strategy to revitalize community and connect people. We believe in our community and the people in it. We foster belonging, self-expression, interdependence, and engagement.

Heritage & History ~ Living Temagami believes the heritages and histories of all people should be embraced and celebrated. We believe it is very important to be connected to our history and heritage as it influences what we do in the present.

Art & Culture ~ Living Temagami believes the presence of all art forms are essential for a healthy, loving, just community. We believe making, showing, performing and experiencing art, music, dance and all culture should be safe, affordable and accessible to everyone.

Collaboration ~ Living Temagami believes our success is tied to that of our volunteers, artists and artisans of all heritages and other members of the community. Our primary commitment is to support, elevate and engage organizations and individuals in the Temagami and surrounding area. We embrace collaboration, partnerships, programming, and commitment as ways to building community.

Diversity ~ Living Temagami values and celebrates the diverse history, identities and cultures within our community. We embrace an intersectional, multi-issue approach to all art, programming, partnership, inclusion and community building. We will keep a hyper local focus on Temagami while breaking down boundaries and raising awareness throughout communities.

Education ~ Living Temagami believes knowledge and mutual respect are enhanced when we share space, create and learn together. We prioritize providing access to arts, and other education to a community that otherwise lacks such resources within it and/or the schools serving our youth.

Inclusion ~ Living Temagami is committed to participatory decision-making. We value and welcome diverse people, art, culture, heritage, and ideas.

● **Terms of Reference**

The purpose of the Living Temagami - Heritage & Culture Centre is to promote community interest, engagement, appreciation, and education in the arts, culture, heritage, local history, and other areas. We will include art & other exhibitions, education, events, and developing needed resources for other specific community interests.

Mandate: Living Temagami - Heritage & Culture Centre will, consistent with the purpose described above, undertake the following: Develop and deliver program's to promote and engage people with our rich and diverse cultural heritage. This will include art, artisan, craftsman, music, dance, theatre, and other educational workshops, and to embrace our history and diverse heritage. Foster public awareness, recognition, and support for local talent in all arts, heritage, and archival preservation of the history, lore, and language of the Temagami and surrounding area.

Meetings: The Board of Directors will meet a minimum of once per month in accordance with its regular schedule of meetings established by the Board. Special meetings may be held at the call of the Executive Director or by request of other Directors for specific purposes. The meeting rules and procedures will be in accordance with the Standard Accepted Practices such as Robert's Rules of Order.

Membership: The Board of Directors will consist of five (5) members including; One (1) Director of the Board shall be Indigenous; and four (4) other Directors who shall bring a variety of skills and knowledge to compliment the various areas of our mandate and will include men and women. At present all Directors shall be chosen by the sitting Board of Directors. Other Committees may be formed in future to develop specific areas of Living Temagami programming and organizational needs.

2. Statement of Interest and Experience

- **Why is the organization interested in the project?**

Living Temagami Heritage and Culture believes that the Temagami Train Station is a focal point of the town. It is a beautiful building with great potential for the right project and venue to come together and breathe life into what is now an empty shell. We agree with the Municipality's and the taxpayers' desire that the Station be a space that engages the Community, becomes an integral part of the Community and has the ability to draw people to the town to help support the Community. In the recent survey provided to the residents of Temagami regarding what uses they would like to see for the Train Station, both having a gallery and having a museum were at the top of the survey results. In speaking with various people in the Municipality you will find there is a clear desire to have workshops and opportunities to learn, to try new things, to have an organized space and come together to create an atmosphere where they can discuss and exchange ideas and thoughts and create a positive dialogue. They desire a town that can be vibrant and viable as it once was. We intend to provide programming to help fulfill those desires and grow to provide more.

The Temagami Artistic Collective has been mainly focused on the music side of "Artistic" with the inclusion of some cultural programming along the way. They have wanted to expand to include the artists, artisans, photographers, craftsmen, and other creative people in the area for some time and we are confident that now is the right time for this inclusion to begin. When TAC was approached about this project they were very excited and the project was began and this proposal was started. The proposal has been changed to another organization because there was conflict with many of the available grants for TAC's present programming and the proposed programming for the Train Station. The opportunity to use the Train Station as the vehicle to move the representation of artists and a larger cultural community forward and highlight the large and diverse collection of talented people the Temagami area has to offer is still a perfect fit. TAC is in full support of this project. The beauty and architecture of the building will enhance the historical and enduring feel to the space. It will lend a professional look and atmosphere that will augment the programming offered and set the stage for a successful venture. It will put to good use a building that each citizen looks to as a constant in a landscape of change and deteriorating economy. Buildings as rich in history and service as the Temagami Train Station are truly part of the fabric that created the town and helped it endure over the years. There is a strong connection between this building and the people in this town; indeed it is older than all of us. There is a want and desire for the building to have purpose, yet remain accessible; to become self sufficient, yet not be lost; to have a fitting and respectful outcome long deserved. Living Temagami believes we can provide the purpose, increase the accessibility, and strengthen the connection already existing between the Community and the Station to make it a Community Hub, while we work toward becoming self sufficient.

We are willing and hopeful to share the space with the Temagami and District Chamber of Commerce and their operation of the Information Centre. It is a good fit where both organizations' clientele will overlap and be advantageous to both organizations. We have similar interests and desires to be of benefit to the town and the Community, to help strengthen the economy and presence of the town, and to promote what we have to offer. We have been in discussion with the Chamber and have several options in mind as to how the Collaboration could be developed and what compensations could be exchanged or negotiated.

Recent research on available Funding streams and Grant availability has confirmed there is a wide range of options available for assistance with the potential programming we have listed. All of the programs and events are prospective revenue streams and can be fluid and flexible in being offered for free or for a fee as decided based on the needs of the Community and the Collective at the time of the event. We will be actively pursuing all pertinent opportunities for Funding and Collaboration.

• **What is the organization's experience working in the area you are proposing?**

Although the new organization does not have a history of organizing and delivering a wide range of events and programming that TAC has, all of the Board of Director has experience in these areas and have consistently delivered for other organization and have a long list of successes with other organizations. We will serve Living Temagami with the same drive and commitment.

The Collective has experience in organizing and delivering a multitude of events in a variety of genres. There is a history of Collaboration with other organizations and Community Groups, successful Grant applications and Fund Raising. The Collective is in full support of this project and have made a commitment to offer support and guidance and other help as much as possible. We will be working together and supporting each other in many ways. Living Temagami will be collaborating with other organizations and groups. We have already engaged our network of contacts to discuss areas of the programming we would like to begin with. We have secured offers of website creation, printing at cost, and several free presentations. Our members are educated and experienced in the areas required to make the planned programming a reality. Collectively, we have years of business and entrepreneurial acumen, facility and retail operations and management experience, administration, marketing, teaching, presentation, workshop and curatorial practice. Strengths include program development, event planning, volunteer procurement and management, team building, resource development, Collaboration, and Grant writing. Living Temagami will do an excellent job in offering an excellent repertoire of enjoyment and learning opportunities with the same commitment to accountability, organization, and delivery as provided in the past in our service to other organizations and communities. We are artists, musicians, craftsmen and creative individuals, committed to strengthening our town and our Community for the benefit of all.

3. Vision for the Project

• **How does the organization see they will benefit the Community?**

Our goal is to develop the Station into a Community destination by creating a Cultural Center. We will do this by creating a space and programming that will bring people from the Community and beyond together to enjoy the space and events, make new friends, enjoy new experiences, and engage in the learning or enjoyment opportunities we will be offering. People coming to our town may participate in other events, shop, eat, and stay overnight, all boosting the economy and supporting the town. People who have a positive experience will talk with others about what they experienced and enjoyed. They will return again and again.

Revitalizing our downtown area is of vital importance to the attraction of investment, business, and people to our Community. Having a vibrant Cultural Centre in the most important and beautiful historical building in the area will change the view in the downtown core and is a key component in moving the Economic Development of the town forward.

The Municipality has been covering the monthly costs and repairs of the Train Station since 2013. In the Train Station survey the Community was asked for their opinion on selling the Train Station. The majority of the respondents stated they did not want the Train Station sold, but are concerned about the expense burden placed on the taxpayers. The respondents were also very open to a Non Profit/Not for Profit Organization using the Station with some subsidy provided by the Municipality. We believe creating a Cultural Centre at the Train Station in Temagami will benefit the town's people both personally, with the programming and events, and financially through the positive impact and boost to the local economy and the lessening of the financial burden of the building on the Community.

Living Temagami will be looking to develop programming such as

Artist, Artisan, Craftsmen Exhibitions:

- Local and Guest Artist Exhibits & Installation
- Opening Night events and Artist Discussions
- Curated and Themed Exhibits & Displays
- Sales with a percentage retained by the Collective

Artist, Artisan, Craftsmen Talks, Demonstrations, Seminars, Lectures

- Presentation and Discussions about their Creative Process and Works
- Sharing of Skills and Techniques

Documentaries & Cinematic Presentations

- Variety of Subjects and Community Interests presented in an intimate setting followed by Audience Participation in roundtable Discussion or critique

Small Venue Performances

- Guest Musicians with music geared to a smaller venue
- Poetry or Author Readings, perhaps in Collaboration with the Library
- Storytelling
- Performers

Artist in Residence

- Artist in Residence programs with the Artist using the space to Create Work and have times where the Public is allowed to Observe and Engage the artist about their Work
- Artist in the Schools programs

Studio Space

- Studio Space Rental

Art Camp

- Participate in Helping Facilitate the Annual Art Camp by Supplying Space and Collaboration and Volunteer Staff when needed

Music

- Sharing and Performances
- Music Appreciation
- Music and Lyrics
- Music Lessons

Classes & Workshops

- Artistic forms such as Painting and Drawing
- Photography & Videography
- Woodcraft and Wood Carving
- Jewellery making and Beadwork
- Sewing and Crafts
- Ballroom, Line Dancing etc...
- Reiki and other Naturopathic or Health related programs and Lectures
- Specialty programs and areas of interest geared to Seniors and the Retirement Community
- Poetry, Story Writing, Storytelling Workshops possibly in Collaboration with the library

Museum Space for History of Area – Minimal expense for programs

- Dedicated Space for Historical Items to be displayed on a rotating basis to keep it fresh and Interesting. Grey Owl section. We expect minimal expense for this process
- Historic Presentations & Talks by Local People and Guest Speakers
- History Club or regular meeting times for people to Share Stories and Historical Knowledge
- Collaboration with Museums and Historical Agencies for Sharing Exhibits or Special Presentations

Cultural Education & Events

- Participate in the Annual Cultural Days Festival
- Encourage Community Involvement and Interaction by hosting and helping facilitate presentations or discussions of various history, heritage, and cultures, including both native and non-native in the Temagami and broader area focusing on their roots, heritage, and family traditions, and the area of the world from which their families originated.
- Indigenous Programs and Learning Opportunities, such as traditional dance, language, art, storytelling, history, drum making, drumming, language, traditions and traditional ways, traditional teachings and oral narrative
- Goal of Developing Cultural Understanding and Tolerance, Intergenerational Connections and Community Building
- Language Preservation Archive of the Native Indigenous People – Collaboration Project
- Collaborate with Temagami First Nations for Indigenous Programs and Interest

All of the programming listed has the potential for varying levels of Income and Revenue Sources, from being offered for free or minimal cost to current market values depending on the event or

program proposed. Each category has elements that have Grant Funding available and a strong likelihood of Qualifying for these Funds. Some of the Funding available is ongoing and geared to long term projects and creating the Cultural Centre we envision. Trillium Funding may also be available for the launching of this project with ongoing Funding available in other Trillium Funding streams to operate and grow the venture. The Ontario Arts Council and other Granting Bodies have Operational Funds available as well. Generated Revenue would be used in conjunction with any Grant Funds received to sustain and further develop the Cultural Centre in becoming Self-Sustaining.

- **How does the organization support the vision of having this space a focal point of the Community?**

Living Temagami is committed to the preservation of the Train Station and in strengthening its place as the focal point of the Community. It is already well established as being the focal point of the town itself. We as a Community are lucky to have retained such a significant and historical piece of our town history, when many others have lost or had to sacrifice similar buildings. A Cultural Centre with strong and desirable programming and a variety of interesting and well executed events will increase the focus of the Community on the Train Station and create a destination place that will draw the Community into its architectural space. By providing a venue for people to share interests, share their ideas and express their creativity, share their heritage, learn about themselves and others, there can be no other outcome except to create a Community within and connection between the building and the greater Community itself.

4. Financials

- **Please provide your organization's most recent financial statements**

Living Temagami has no financial statements available

Living Temagami is proposing, in the beginning, a Pilot Project for a Cultural Centre that will operate for the remainder of the fiscal year. This time would be used to develop the programming and gain Funding to support the initiatives we have outlined and if viable could proceed as an ongoing venture. The Pilot Project would then be evaluated and if the potential for viability exists it will continue in operation; and as Funding is secured and programming generates income the goal would be to become a self-sufficient and self-sustaining enterprise. The Pilot Project would require the Municipality to support the use of the building free of expense while funding and income is

developed and then re-evaluated every 6 months as needed. If the Pilot Project is viable and as income is generated or appropriate Grants obtained it would be used to offset operating expenses, rent and utilities etc. so the expenses presently covered by the Municipality would decrease or become non-existent. Insurance coverage will be required for the duration we will have the use of the Train Station and we are looking into the coverage and options available.

Estimated Proposed Monthly Budget – Example Only Not for the Pilot Project

Estimated Income		Estimated Fixed Expenses	
Sales percentage	\$ 50.00	Hydro/Heat	\$ 600.00
Workshops	\$200.00	Water/Sewer	\$ 50.00
Studio Space rent	\$ 50.00	Rent	\$ 800.00
Events	\$300.00	Insurance	\$ 100.00
Grants	\$200.00	Phone/Internet	\$ 75.00
Fund Raising	\$ 50.00	Sub Total	\$1,625.00
Museum	\$ 25.00	LT Contribution	\$ 675.00
Total	\$875.00	Municipal Contribution	\$ 950.00
Minus Expenses	\$200.00		
TAC Contribution	\$675.00		

The above budget is to demonstrate the revenue streams and how they would be used to offset expenses currently paid by the Municipality, or required items, such as insurance, by the organization to be in operation. Actual figures are unknown and require further development currently being completed. They can be made available should the Living Temagam Heritage & Cultural Centre Pilot Project expression of interest be accepted. The budget will also be affected by the presence of the Chamber of Commerce in the shared space. If the Chamber is sharing the space joint use of the phone and internet would be possible and cleaning and supplies would have to be negotiated for the building.

Hours of operation and staffing would depend on several factors and information that is not finalized. Factors include the presence of the Chamber and their staffing abilities and the availability of members based on the needed hours of staffing. Several options for additional staff could include working with several Colleges and Universities in developing an internship program that could be a work experience or Artist in Residence with an assisting in staffing component. This could tie in well with several of the Artists in Business style curriculum offerings. Similar unpaid intern positions may be possible. Artist could be invited to exhibit or be in residence in exchange for staffing assistance. There are Grants available for operating expenses we could obtain.