

Awareness & Education Working Group Quarterly Report – November 2021

Working Group Members

Dorothyanne Brown
Penny Leclair
Susan Mocker
Leah Riddell
Sheri Scott

Support Staff

Janet Jaynes, Deputy City Clerk
Derek Ochej, Committee Clerk
Jen Pinarski, Communications Officer

Celebrating Accessibility Awards

The Working Group discussed the format for the 2021 Celebrating Accessibility Awards. It was determined that with the uncertainty of COVID-19 and the elevated health risks for persons with disabilities, staff should plan to hold the awards in a virtual format, with the understanding that a smaller in-person celebration may be organized if the public health situation allows for such a gathering.

The Working Group discussed the format of a virtual awards ceremony. It was determined that a similar approach may be held to last year's awards, but that consideration should be given the following:

- Integrating recognition of the award winners throughout the year as part of other City accessibility and non-accessibility communications.
- Incorporating artistic performances from persons with disabilities into the virtual awards ceremony.
- Partnering with other organizations in the accessibility field to amplify the ceremony.
- Partnering with media organizations such as YourTV to increase the profile and visibility of the ceremony.

The Working Group discussed the criteria to be used for determining award recipients. Concern was raised about distinguishing between persons and organizations that go

above and beyond the minimum accessibility requirements versus recognizing those who have a business interest in accessibility. Staff responded that this determination is left up to the discretion of the awards selection committee, but that it could be considered a factor when selecting a potential award recipient.

The Working Group discussed the best method for the appropriately categorizing nominees and/or award recipients in the three award categories (Individual, Business and Community Organization). Staff suggested that the nominees continue to self-select their award category, and that if there is a question of whether or not a potential award recipient is in the correct category, the awards selection committee would choose which category was appropriate based upon further investigation. Staff advised that multiple awards could be given in the same category and that an award did not need to be given out in each category each year.

Business community outreach and education

Staff presented the Working Group with an opportunity regarding educating the local business community on providing services and goods in an accessible manner. The Kingston Economic Development Corporation (KEDCO) runs an Ask the Expert program which offers business planning and coaching through one-on-one time with local specialists to assist small businesses on planning for the future.

It was agreed by the Working Group that staff should approach KEDCO to see if a business offering accessibility consultation could be added to the Ask the Expert program. Staff requested that working group members share any potential business consultants that could be used for this project.

BUILT ENVIRONMENT WORKING GROUP

MAAC Quarterly Report – October 2021

Members: Andrew Ashby, Susan Mockler, David Williams, Caitlin Bruce, Nick Streicher, Janice Wilby, Glenn Griffiths. Kate Deacon,

Staff: Janet Jaynes, Deputy City Clerk

1. **Business:**

- We continued to meet by video conferencing this quarter and work continued with a steady number of site plan and project reviews. As part of the ongoing training, the working group reviewed sections of the Design of Public Spaces document in the context of accessibility features in projects, most recently, systems and controls.
- **Briefings** – Trevor Fray, Executive Director, Kingston Access Services attended to discuss services and accessibility supports available. Upcoming in November, the planning dept. will attend for our semiannual review of the accessibility checklist. We are continually exploring options of other briefings from city departments and community organizations, now looking to Spring meetings.
- **Ongoing Updates** – Some email review of progress in consultations with project managers with some video conferencing for some current and active projects on BEWG project list. More exciting were some recent in-person consults and walk-throughs of projects! These updates and site plans have been relatively steady.

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