



Cornerstone Bridge Funding – Assessment Evaluation

A standard practice for all Calgary Arts Development grant assessments is to complete a post-mortem with the grant assessors at the end of the meeting to collect feedback on the process. The post-mortem was conducted for the Cornerstone Bridge Funding Program assessment and the assessors offered the following comments:

- The assessors confessed to feeling skeptical about the process as they were completing the evaluations for the applications, but found the process was extremely valuable and educational for each member of the committee. It was seen as very helpful.
- Assessors saw the process as a foundation for the next steps in sustainability, and all want to be actively involved in that, because they have put a big investment into the work so far. They are eager to begin work on the sustainability framework.
- The assessors felt the collaboration around the table needs to continue beyond discussions of how we fund each other but how we can support each other down the road.
- The assessors expressed that, while on one hand, it was a stressful situation both to write the applications and to evaluate them, it was also a tremendously generous room and space. It has been a very interesting process and different from any process anyone has experienced before.
- Most in the assessment felt that it was a good process and are comfortable with where it got to. They felt it was helpful to be in the room with their colleagues. In terms of reviewing and putting applications together, it would be helpful to streamline this aspect of the process.
- The assessors stressed the importance of being able to enter into frank and honest discussions with each other and that the confidentiality agreement that all assessors signed was critical to ensuring a safe space for sharing challenges.

Subsequent to the post-mortem conversation with the Cornerstone Bridge Funding assessors, we offered a second opportunity for comments and feedback at the first meeting of the Sustainability Framework Working Group. Feedback largely reiterated the comments above, with more emphasis on the value that was obtained by the group of Cornerstone companies coming together to share challenges and seek ways to learn from each other and work together on new solutions.