

INFO-24-XXX

From: Mary <thecollectivemarketoshawa@gmail.com>

Sent: Sunday, March 10, 2024 11:41 AM

To: grants@oshawa.ca; Tito-Dante Marimpietri <TDMarimpietri@Oshawa.ca>; Mayor@Oshawa.ca; Dan Carter <DCarter@oshawa.ca>; Bob Chapman <BChapman@oshawa.ca>; Rick Kerr <RKerr@oshawa.ca>; Brian Nicholson <BNicholson@oshawa.ca>; chair@durham.ca

Subject: Oshawa Help For Business and Issues Re: FW: Application for Oshawa Community Grant

Hello

The Mayor and Council members attended my Grand Opening in October 2023. There was a lot of talk and support for me opening a coffee shop, retail location supporting other businesses - in the core of Downtown Oshawa. The entire second floor of my location is dedicated to a free toddler playroom and craft room with tons of arts and crafts for kids - all of which are completely free. Since Opening I have been able to have a space for newcomers, families of different income levels and many more kids who come in just to be able to craft and play in a FREE and safe space. I support all of this while having a family of my own, because it is worth it to provide free things for kids and families in our community.

I am doing free kids workshops in my space, free organized book clubs, free markets for local businesses and for young entrepreneurs, free family days for the public like I have since we opened with face painting and bouncy houses etc. I am facilitating a free space to use for kids clubs and adult clubs, free adult workshops, free english classes. I have also set up kids reading circles with local authors who have published their own children's books.

I have also started an initiative that ALL the wall space at my location is free for all artists to come and put up their artwork. I have also been partnering with the masonic hall and booking events - for example in May we have a market that is FREE to the community, the hall costs me \$350 - Then I have the bouncy house costs \$250, the lawn games \$200, the free snacks for kids, the face painter \$200 and of course all of these free community events and groups need staff.

I am looking for followup to my email and questions as I have not received a response. I applied for various grants that Oshawa offers and was denied for ALL of them. The reason being the semantics of applying under my business name. I have requested several times to be able to reapply with the same application and simply take off The Collective Market and only add MY NAME - as the reasoning for being denied my applications for grants was this

I could easily apply via just my personal name if the business name I entered under is this huge hurdle, as I was denied because the criteria relates to the "APPLICANT RATHER THAN THE PROGRAM" - Please help me make this make sense? I have requested several times to then just apply as a member of the community since that is the issue, but no response addresses this. I am honestly disappointed that the actual programs have ZERO weight in this consideration.

Is this why good businesses are failing in Downtown Oshawa? There is a lack of support - and it's NOT easy having a kid friendly location in Oshawa when on the daily I have to ask people to not use my property as a toilet or place to shoot up drugs.

I paid for and did all of the renovations to the place myself because I could not apply for a single grant since the owners refused to sign the grant paperwork and Oshawa required it. Now I can't even be considered for the other grants because of a formality of not using my own name as the "community group" holding free events - I use my location and the Masonic Hall because are we not trying to better the downtown core? If location is an issue I can use grant money to rent other locations that are not in my location/business, but what is the point of that?

I have only been open for less than 5 months, but please see the attached photos of bringing the community together in downtown Oshawa.

Thank you so much for reading this and I appreciate any type of feedback/response or ideas of what else I can do to get some help from a city I live in, work in and love.

"The criteria relates to the applicant rather than the program offered.

A community group would be an organized group of community residents who are not incorporated, e.g. a group of Oshawa artistes collaborating to stage a free community concert.

A for-profit business, organizing an event in their place of business or otherwise, even if it is free to the community, does not meet criteria."

Mary Kovacs

Owner/Operator

THE COLLECTIVE MARKET
83 CENTRE ST S - OSHAWA

🛒 Website: <https://thecollectivemarketoshawa.myshopify.com/>

✉ Email Us: thecollectivemarketoshawa@gmail.com