File #: BIR-27-039, **Version:** 1

TAMRMS#: B05

BUDGET INFORMATION REQUEST (BIR) - Community & Children's Theatre Annual Productions

Requested by: Councillor Hughes
Date of Request: October 28, 2026
Date Response Due: November 3, 2026
Confidential: No

QUESTION

What would be the budget required, if any, to increase the service level to two community theatre annual productions and two children's theatre productions annually or could this be fit in the current budget allocation? I understand there was the equivalent of one community theatre and two children's theatre productions, with the current budget, so this would be a net increase of one additional theatre production. Also the production for both groups would not need to be delivered at the same time unless it was more cost-efficient to do so.

RESPONSE

Historically, St. Albert Children's and Community Theatre programming has delivered two productions annually: a spring production, featuring, primarily, youth only participants, associated with the International Children's Festival of the Arts, and a larger winter production with an intergenerational cast of youth and adults.

In 2026, Community Services, as part of its Performing Arts programming, piloted a dedicated adult only production as a performance opportunity to complement adult performing arts classes offerings and provide class participants a performance opportunity. The inclusion of the adult-only performance opportunity would be based on participant demand, class enrollment, available performance space, and the availability of reusable sets and costumes from other productions.

To increase annual performing arts programming live performance opportunities to up to four productions, including two guaranteed productions exclusively for youth participants, one guaranteed intergenerational production, and the potential for additional performance opportunities based on demonstrated community and instructional class participation, an additional annual operating budget investment of $65,000 would be required.

Production Type	Participant Demographic	Estimated Cast Size	Performance Length	Primary Venue	Timing	Service
Children's Festival	Youth participants	30	1 hour	Black Box	Spring (Children's Festival)	Existing
Adult Cabaret	Adult participants	10	1 hour	Black Box	Flexible	Offered alongside classes
Community Musical Theatre Production	Intergenerational (youth and adults)	50	2.5 hours	Arden Theatre	Winter	Existing
Summer Youth Production	Youth participants	30	1 hour	Arden Theatre	Summer	Proposed New Production

The proposed budget would increase annual theatre programming to include two youth-only productions. The additional funding would primarily support production staffing, technical support, production costs, rehearsal time, and venue use associated with adding a new summer youth only production.

The summer youth production would be similar in scale to the annual St. Albert Children's and Community Theatre Children's Festival production and would require up to three weeks of exclusive Arden Theatre access during the summer. Minimal impacts on theatre rental revenue are anticipated with the addition of a summer youth only performance. Existing rehearsal spaces can accommodate the proposed production schedule.

Administration would recommend a two-year pilot and returning to Council in 2028 with an operating business case for 2029 that considers impacts on participation, revenue, and impacts, including potential service duplication with private operators.

"Edited or refined with AI support; reviewed and verified by a City employee."

Report Date: 2026/11/03
Author(s): Adam Turnbull and Elizabeth Budd
Department: Community Services
Department Director: Elizabeth Budd
Managing Director: Dinu Alex
Chief Administrative Officer: William Fletcher