



Making a difference...together

**Minutes of a Meeting of the ARTS COMMISSION
Held Wednesday, January 22, 2020, In Room 488, 625 Fisgard St., Victoria, BC**

Present: Members: J. Loveday (Chair), M. Brame, S. Epp, W. Gardner (via telephone), D. Lajeunesse (4:17), T. Ney, C. Plant, K. Roessingh (4:06)

Staff: James Lam, Manager, Arts Development; J. Nichols, Community Outreach Coordinator, Arts Development; N. More, Senior Administrative Secretary (recorder)

Also Present: P. Sullivan, Chair, and C. Heiman, Funding Chair, Arts Advisory Council; E. Mattson, Strategic Planning Consultant

Absent: G. Lemon

The meeting was called to order at 4:01 p.m.

1 Territorial Acknowledgement

2 Approval of Agenda

MOVED by Member Brame, **SECONDED** by Member Ney,
That item 6.5 Arts Implementation Update be added and the agenda be approved as amended.

CARRIED

Chair Loveday invited each member to briefly introduce themselves.

Member Roessingh entered the meeting at 4:06 p.m.

3 Adoption of Minutes

MOVED by Member Brame, **SECONDED** by Member Roessingh,
That the minutes of the November 27, 2019, Arts Commission meeting be adopted as previously circulated.

CARRIED

4 Chair's Remarks

Chair Loveday remarked on the objectives of the Arts Commission in the coming year, noting the work towards full participation throughout the region, outreach, strategic plan update, and ongoing granting. He expressed that he looks forward to working with returning and new members, and acknowledged the departing members with thanks for their contribution.

5 Presentations/Delegations: There were none.

6 Commission Business

6.1 Arts Advisory Council Update

6.1.1 Arts Advisory Council Chair's Report (Verbal)

Chair Sullivan reported that the Council did not meet in January. The Council adjudicated the Operating Grants applications in November, and the results have been brought forward to the Commission at the present meeting.

The Commission discussed the number of members on the Arts Advisory Council and the process underway for advertising for appointments to fill vacancies.

MOVED by Member Plant, **SECONDED** by Member Roessingh,
That the Arts Advisory Council Chair's verbal report be received for information.

CARRIED

D. Lajeunesse entered the meeting at 4:17 p.m.

6.2 Review of Arts & Culture 2020 Annual Operating Grant Recommendations

J. Lam provided highlights of the report. The Commission sought clarification on the evaluations and discussed aspects of the Operating Grant program. Discussion included the following points:

- Expectations put upon the applying organizations
- Trend toward granting the same amount as the previous year; i.e., flat funding
- The idea that consistent performance equals consistent support
- Not to take away from new proposals that present a significant benefit to the community

The Commission directed staff to provide a longer window on funding, such as information on past trends.

The discussion continued:

- Most organizations don't get their full request
- Juxtaposition of increasing volume of applicants and amount of CRD grant budget
- Good to also support growth of new and smaller organizations
- Clarification around programming: the Operating Grants will support educational programs that have regional significance, and organizations who provide venues and who are primarily presenters.
- Programming Grants can be used towards administration functions, but are restricted against capital expenses.
- More discussion needed around the consistency principle; do applicants know about it? What does consistent performance mean?
- Experience of some arts councils in balancing the need to not jeopardize investment over the years in organizations consistently granted and yet not close off funding to newly-applying organizations

MOVED by Member Roessingh, **SECONDED** by Member Ney,
That the 2020 Annual Operating Grant recommendations be approved as presented.

CARRIED

The Commission discussed the consistency principle further. P. Sullivan clarified that it was a guideline rather than a principle.

Chair Loveday clarified that issues arising from the upcoming plenary session will come forward, including the question of raising the Operating Grant budget.

The Commission directed staff to fulfill a previous Commission request to have the member jurisdictions of the grant-applying organizations listed in the grant recommendations.

Chair Loveday summarized the main discussion points, as follows:

- The Arts Commission needs to look at the consistency principle as a guideline
- The Commission wants to see smaller and emerging organizations included and experiencing growth
- Include the diversity of the region, for all those joined and joining in the years to come

MOVED by Member Plant, **SECONDED** by Member Roessingh,
That staff and the Arts Advisory Council review the threshold for being able to apply for Operating Grants.

CARRIED

6.3 2015-2019 Strategic Plan Recap

J. Lam spoke to the presentation slides provided with the agenda. Implementation of the plan occurred in 2017. He introduced Erica Mattson, an independent consultant and contractor who has worked for twenty years with arts service organizations and who will facilitate the strategy session.

The Commission consented to a confidential, simple survey from Erica with four or five questions administered through email as a pre-session delving, with the Arts Advisory Council members as optional survey-participants. Chair Loveday, J. Lam, and E. Mattson to meet and go over the results before the strategy session. The strategy session date will be announced after staff poll Members for an appropriate, available Saturday.

MOVED by Member Roessingh, **SECONDED** by Member Ney,
That the 2015-2019 Strategic Plan Recap be received for information.

CARRIED

6.4 Correspondence

6.4.1 Impulse Theatre, Nov. 2019, re: thank you

6.4.2 Intrepid Theatre, Dec. 2019, re: thank you

6.4.3 Victoria Children's Choir, Dec. 2019, re: thank you

MOVED by Member Roessingh, **SECONDED** by Member Ney,
That the correspondence from Impulse Theatre, Intrepid Theatre and the Victoria Children's Choir be received for information.

CARRIED

6.5 Arts Implementation Plan Update (Verbal)

J. Nichols provided an update, including success of social media uptake, convening in partnership with the City of Victoria Friday morning talks on creativity, and planning for the Arts Summit.

MOVED by Member Roessingh, **SECONDED** by Member Ney,
That the Arts Implementation Plan Update (Verbal) be received for information.

CARRIED

7 New Business: Member Epp reported her Council had decided on an appointee to the Arts Commission.

8 Adjournment

MOVED by Member Loveday, **SECONDED** by Member Brame,
That the meeting be adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

CARRIED

CHAIR

RECORDER