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Minutes of a Meeting of the ARTS COMMISSION
Held WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24, 2020, in Room 488, 625 Fisgard St., Victoria, BC

Present in the Meeting Room:

Members: J. Loveday (Chair);

Staff: J. Lam, Manager, Arts & Culture Support Service; N. More, Senior Administrative Secretary (recorder)

Also Present: C. Heiman, Chair, Arts Advisory Council

Present Electronically (Telephone):

Members: M. Brame, S. Epp, W. Gardner, D. Lajeunesse, G. Lemon, C. Plant, K. Roessingh

Staff: J. Nichols, Community Outreach Coordinator

Also Present: M. Heinz, Funding Chair, Arts Advisory Council

Absent: T. Ney

The meeting was called to order at 4:05 p.m. Roll call was taken.

1 Territorial Acknowledgement

2 Approval of Agenda

MOVED by Member Brame, **SECONDED** by Member Lemon,
That the agenda be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

3 Adoption of Minutes

MOVED by Member Epp, **SECONDED** by Member Plant,
That the minutes of the May 27, 2020, Arts Commission meeting be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

4 Chair's Remarks

Chair Loveday remarked on the importance of support for the arts at this time. He noted the survey results showing how arts organizations have been impacted by the pandemic. Behind every cancelled event or lay off, there are humans whose lives are impacted. Continued support for the arts amounts to support for the community at large.

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 Heiman reported on the work of the Arts Advisory Council, as represented by agenda items 6.4 and 6.5. She expressed that, given the unique circumstances of the pandemic event, the Council would listen for direction from the Commission regarding the potential effects on the Operating Grants adjudication later in the year.

6.1.2 Arts Advisory Council Minutes for Information, 2 June 2020**6.1.3 Arts Advisory Council *Activities by Council Summary*, 2 June 2020**

MOVED by Member Roessingh, **SECONDED** by Member Brame,
That the Arts Advisory Council Chair's verbal report, and the Arts Advisory Council minutes of June 2, 2020, and *Activities by Council Summary* of June 2, 2020, be received for information.
CARRIED

6.2 Arts Implementation Plan Update (Verbal)

J. Nichols distributed an early copy of the 2019 CRD Arts & Culture Progress Report soon to be released to the public. She expressed that the report provided an opportunity to reflect on the successes of the organizations supported by the CRD, and that the arts do cast light in the shadows of uncertainty. Discussion included the following points:

- Distribution of the print version and publicity overall for the report, including to participating and non-participating CRD municipal councils
- What's next for outreach: review of the pilot program for the IDEA and Incubator grants; and planning for the fall Arts Champion Summit
- The Commission directed staff to "tag" (#) the participating jurisdictions when publicizing the progress report on social media.
- The Commission directed staff to rename the Arts Implementation Plan Update standing item to "Outreach Update" on future agendas.

J. Lam noted a request from the municipality of Sidney to receive a presentation on the CRD Arts & Culture Support Service and the Arts Commission.

The Commission noted that the Progress report was a good tool to illustrate the work of the Arts Commission, a way for the arts organizations funded by the CRD to see the broader scope of the grants, and a demonstration of the Commission mandate to make connections within the arts and culture community.

MOVED by Member Roessingh, **SECONDED** by Member Brame,
That the Arts Implementation Plan Update be received for information.

CARRIED

6.3 COVID19 Impact Survey of Funded Organizations

J. Lam provided highlights of the report. The survey results show the impact. He noted that applications for upcoming grants may show changes as organizations adjust and adapt to the circumstances. The Commission discussed appreciation for the local data and the innovation shown by arts organizations in delivery of programs through alternative methods

MOVED by Member Roessingh, **SECONDED** by Member Gardner,
That the COVID19 Impact Survey of Funded Organizations report be received for information.

CARRIED

6.4 April 2020 Project Grant Recommendations

J. Lam provided highlights of the report and recommendations. Chair Loveday and Member Epp declared potential conflicts of interest with two of the organizations on the list.

MOVED by Member Plant, **SECONDED** by Member Roessingh,
That the 2020 Project Grant recommendations be approved, minus the Victoria Poetry Project Society and the Metchosin Arts & Cultural Center Association.

CARRIED

J. Lam clarified the process if the organizations have a material change to their project.

Chair Loveday recused himself from the meeting at 4:51 p.m. due to involvement with the Victoria Poetry Project Society.

Board Chair Plant took over chairing the meeting

Member Epp recused herself from the meeting at 4:51 p.m. due to involvement with the Metchosin Arts & Cultural Center Association.

MOVED by Member Brame, **SECONDED** by Member Lemon,
That the 2020 Project Grant recommendations for the Victoria Poetry Project Society and the Metchosin Arts & Cultural Center Association be approved.

CARRIED

Chair Loveday returned to the meeting at 4:52 p.m. and returned to the chairing the meeting.

Member Epp returned to the meeting at 4:52 p.m.

6.5 Eligibility Criteria for Operating Grants Requiring a Minimum Budget Size

J. Lam provided highlights of the report. The Commission discussed that at least one organization that had received Operating Grants in the past would become ineligible to apply if the minimum budget size were increased to the recommended amount. J. Lam clarified that the Projects, Series and Extended Programming grants would still be an option for those organizations. The measure of an applying organization meeting the budget threshold is an average of their budget over three years.

MOVED by Member Plant, **SECONDED** by Member Roessingh,
That the Operating Grant criteria for minimum budget be raised to \$100,000.

The Commission discussed the competitiveness for grants and historic practice for phasing organizations out of support from the Operating Grant Program.

MOVED by Member Loveday, **SECONDED** by Member Roessingh,
That the motion be amended to add the words, “and that the CRD grant a one year phase-out period for any organization that does no longer meet the Operating Grant budget threshold.”

MOVED by Member Plant, **SECONDED** by Member Loveday,
That the amendment be amended to add the words “that was funded in the current year” after the word “organization”.

CARRIED

The Commission discussed that due to the pandemic, times are unstable.

MOVED by Member Roessingh, **SECONDED** by Member Epp,
That the main motion be amended so the amount is \$90,000.

The question on the main motion as amended was called:

MOVED by Member Plant, **SECONDED** by Member Roessingh,
That the Operating Grant criteria for minimum budget be raised to \$90,000 and that the CRD grant a one year phase-out period for any organization that was funded in the current year that does no longer meet the Operating Grant budget threshold.

CARRIED

MOVED by Member Plant, **SECONDED** by Member Brame,
That the main motion be amended to add the words “and that this amount be reviewed annually.”

The Commission discussed the value of predictability of the grant amount. The question on the amendment to the main motion was called.

MOVED by Member Plant, **SECONDED** by Member Brame,
That the main motion be amended to add the words “and that this amount be reviewed annually.”

DEFEATED

Opposed: Brame, Gardner, Lemon, Roessingh

The question on the main motion as amended was called:

MOVED by Member Plant, **SECONDED** by Member Roessingh,
That the Operating Grant criteria for minimum budget be raised to \$90,000 and that the CRD grant a one year phase-out period for any organization that was funded in the current year that does no longer meet the Operating Grant budget threshold.

CARRIED

7 Correspondence

MOVED by Member Roessingh, **SECONDED** by Member Lemon,
That the following correspondence be received for information:

- Victoria Society for Blind Arts and Culture, 5 June 2020 re IDEA Grant
- Victoria International Jewish Film Festival, 6 June 2020, re Arts & Culture IDEA Grant
- Pacific Opera Victoria, 10 June 2020, re Operating Grant

CARRIED

8 New Business

8.1 Audited Financial Statement Requirement for Multi-Year Operating Grant Recipients

J. Lam reported that an Operating Grant client had enquired whether the audited financial statement would continue to be required for multi-year grant recipients. J. Lam clarified the reason for the requirement to continue.

MOVED by Member Plant, **SECONDED** by Member Roessingh,
That the verbal update on the audited financial statement requirement be received for information.

CARRIED

9 Adjournment

MOVED by Member Brame, **SECONDED** by Member Lemon,
That the meeting be adjourned at 5:34 p.m.

CARRIED

CHAIR

RECORDER