



Making a difference...together

Additional Circulation:  
J. Lam  
R. Lapham  
N. Chan  
R. Lachance  
V. Jeevanandam  
M. Heinz  
C. Heiman

## ARTS COMMISSION

Notice of Meeting on **Wednesday, January 27, 2021, at 4:00 p.m.**  
Room 651, 6th Floor, 625 Fisgard Street, Victoria, BC; and Electronic Participation

J. Loveday (Chair)	L. Hundleby	S. Epp	W. Gardner	D. Lajeunesse
	G. Lemon	C. Plant	C. Green	K. Roessingh

---

### AGENDA

1. Territorial Acknowledgement
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Electronic and In-Person Meetings of CRD Committees and Commissions

#### Resolution:

1. That this resolution applies to the Arts Commission for the meetings being held between January 1 and December 31, 2021, and
2. That the attendance of the public at the place of the meeting cannot be accommodated in accordance with the applicable requirements or recommendations under the *Public Health Act*, despite the best efforts of the committee, because:
  - a. The available meeting facilities cannot accommodate more than eight people in person, including members of the committee and staff, and
  - b. There are no other facilities presently available that will allow physical attendance of the committee and the public in sufficient numbers; and
3. That the committee is ensuring opening, transparency, accessibility and accountability in respect of the open meeting by the following means:
  - a. By providing notice of the meeting in newspaper or local notice Board, including the methods for providing written or electronic submissions,
  - b. By making the meeting agenda, as well as the other relevant documents, available on the CRD website, and directing interested persons to the website by means of the notices provided in respect of the meeting,
  - c. By strongly encouraging the provision of, and subsequently receiving and distributing to members, written correspondence from the public in advance of the meeting, and
  - d. By making the minutes of the meeting available on the CRD website following the meeting.
4. Adoption of Minutes of November 25, 2020  
Recommendation: That the November 25, 2020, minutes of the Arts Commission be adopted.
5. Chair's Remarks
6. Presentations/Delegations
  - 6.1. Greater Victoria Regional Arts Awards Report: Doug Jarvis, ProArt Alliance of Greater Victoria
7. Commission Business
  - 7.1. Arts Advisory Council Update
    - 7.1.1. Arts Advisory Council Chair's Report (Verbal)
    - 7.1.2. Arts Advisory Council Minutes for Information – January 5, 2021

---

To ensure quorum, please advise Nancy More ([nmore@crd.bc.ca](mailto:nmore@crd.bc.ca)) if you or your alternate cannot attend.

7.1.3. Arts Advisory Council *Activities by Council Summary*, January 5, 2021

Recommendation: That the Arts Advisory Council Chair's verbal report; the January 5, 2021, Minutes, and *Activities by Council Summary* of January 5, 2021, be received for information.

7.2. Outreach Update

Recommendation: That the Outreach Update be received for information.

7.3. 2021 Annual Operating Grant Recommendations

Recommendation:

The Arts Advisory Council recommends to the Arts Commission:

1. That the operating grant recommendations for 2021 be approved as presented.
2. That the operating grant budget for 2022 be increased to \$2,482,500.

8. Correspondence: Victoria Children's Choir, December 2020, re: Thank you

Recommendation: That the correspondence from Victoria Children's Choir be received for information.

9. New Business

10. Adjournment

Next Meeting: February 24, 2021



Making a difference...together

**Minutes of a Meeting of the ARTS COMMISSION**  
**Held Wednesday, November 25, 2020, in Room 488, 625 Fisgard St., Victoria, BC**

---

**Present: Members:** J. Loveday (Chair); the following by electronic participation: M. Brame, S. Epp, W. Gardner, D. Lajeunesse, G. Lemon, T. Ney, C. Plant, K. Roessingh  
**Staff:** James Lam, Manager, Arts Development; N. More, Senior Administrative Secretary (recorder)

**Also Present:, Arts Advisory Council:** C. Heiman, Chair (EP), M. Heinz, Funding Chair (EP)

**Absent:**

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 pm. The Chair invited each to comment on their arts and culture experiences since the last meeting.

**1 Approval of Agenda**

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

**CARRIED**

**2 Territorial Acknowledgement**

Chair Loveday gave the territorial acknowledgement.

**3 Adoption of Minutes of October 28, 2020**

**MOVED** by Member Roessingh, **SECONDED** by Member Brame,  
That the minutes of the October 28, 2020, Arts Commission meeting be adopted as previously circulated.

**CARRIED**

**4 Chair's Remarks**

Chair Loveday thanked the members whose appointments to the Commission would end on December 31 and noted his appreciation for all the members and their participation on the Commission.

**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)**

C. Heiman reported that the Arts Advisory Council held a plenary session to consider the one-year Operational Grant applications and recommendations can be expected by the Commission in January. Generally, the applications were impressive in how organizations were adapting to the pandemic conditions and were using the down time to work on the administrative and structural aspects of their organizations.

**MOVED** by Member Lemon, **SECONDED** by Member Lajeunesse,  
That the Arts Advisory Council Chair’s report be received for information.

**CARRIED**

**6.2 Outreach Update**

The recruitment process has advanced. The Commission discussed the volume of applications.

**MOVED** by Member Roessingh, **SECONDED** by Member Lemon,  
That the verbal outreach update be received for information.

**CARRIED**

**6.3 Bylaw 4367: to Broaden Access to the Arts Advisory Council and Introduce a Conflict of Interest and Recusal Mechanism**

**MOVED** by Member Lemon, **SECONDED** by Member Roessingh,  
The Arts Commission recommends to the Capital Regional District Board:

1. That Bylaw No. 4367, “CRD Arts Advisory Council Bylaw, 2002, Amendment Bylaw No. 3, 2020” be introduced and read a first, second, and third time; and
2. That Bylaw No. 4367 be adopted.

**CARRIED**

**7 New Business:** There was no new business.

**7.1 Question: Equity Decision from Last Meeting**

The Commission sought clarification on how the motion carried at the last meeting on equity would factor into the hiring process and the next round of recruitment for the Arts Advisory Council.

J. Lam clarified that the intention would be carried out in the messaging for recruitment and that the CRD Board has struck an equity and diversity committee to develop policy.

**8 Adjournment**

**MOVED** by Member Brame, **SECONDED** by Member Roessingh,  
That the meeting be adjourned at 4:33 p.m.

**CARRIED**

\_\_\_\_\_  
CHAIR

\_\_\_\_\_  
RECORDER

*Witness Legacy Award for Social Purpose and Responsibility Through Art*  
**Rage Sweater Theatre Productions**  
Recognized for using their artistic practice for positive social or environmental change. Includes a \$500 prize.

*PARC Retirement Living Mid-Career Artist Award*  
**Krystal Cook**  
Recognized for their contribution to the regional arts community as a mid-career artist. Includes a \$2,000 prize.

*JAYMAC Outstanding Production Award*  
**Fado, The Saddest Music in the World** by Puente Theatre  
Recognized for their outstanding locally produced performing arts production. Includes a \$15,000 prize.



*Critics Choice Awards*  
**Outstanding Production**  
**Il trittico** (Pacific Opera Victoria)  
**Outstanding Performance**  
**Finn Kelly** Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time (Theatre Inconnu)  
**Outstanding Director**  
**Kate Rubin** Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time (Theatre Inconnu)  
**Outstanding Design**  
**Andy Moro, Jeff Chief, Allison Lynch** Ministry of Grace (Belfry Theatre)  
**Amplify Award**  
**Atomic Vaudeville**

*City of Victoria Creative Builder Award*  
**Charles Campbell**  
Recognized for the work that they do behind the scenes to build the regional arts community. Includes a \$3,000 prize.



*ProArt Early-Career Artist Award*  
**Jana Morrison**  
Recognized for the potential they have shown early in their career. Includes a \$500 prize.

*CRD Arts Commission Regional Impact Award*  
**Theatre SKAM**  
Recognized for the outstanding impact that their local festival, event, or organization has on the regional arts community. Includes a \$5,000 prize.

To learn more about this year's award recipients and sponsors visit:  
[www.proartalliance.ca](http://www.proartalliance.ca)

**Greater Victoria Regional Arts Awards**

Recognizing achievements in the arts on the traditional territories of the Lkwungen peoples

[www.proartalliance.ca](http://www.proartalliance.ca)

**#yyjArtsAwards**

2020

Award Sponsors



Program Sponsors



Event Host Venues

- @Belfry Theatre
- @Royal Theatre
- @SKAM Satellite
- @Baumann Centre
- @Open Space
- @JHome



Making a difference...together

## ARTS ADVISORY COUNCIL

### Minutes of a meeting of the Arts Advisory Council, Capital Regional District Held Tuesday, January 5, 2021 via video conference

---

**Members** (Present Electronically): E. Beaton, B. Crook, C. Heiman, A. Hershberg, M. Heinz, B. McLean, P. Sullivan, D. Thorpe, J. Verano

**Arts & Culture Staff:** J. Lam, Manager, V. Jeevanandam, Community Outreach Coordinator, H. Heywood, Admin Assistant (recorder)

J. Lam called the meeting to order at 5:02 pm and welcomed members to the first meeting of 2021.

Members were introduced to Arts & Culture's new Outreach Community Coordinator, V. Jeevanandam, as well as advised of the resignation of D. Etsten.

The following additions were made to the agenda:

#### New Business

8.1 TOR for the Equity, Diversity Inclusion committee

8.2 Operating grant funding gap

1. Approval of Agenda  
MOVED by P. Sullivan, SECONDED by D. Thorpe, to approve the agenda as amended.

#### 2. Elections

##### 2.1 Nominations and election of Chair

J. Lam reviewed the procedure for elections and then called for nominations for Chair of the CRD Arts Advisory Council.

M. Heinz nominated C. Heiman. C. Heiman accepted.

J. Lam called for a second and third time and there being no other nominations, C. Heiman was acclaimed as Chair.

##### 2.2 Nominations and election of Funding Chair

Chair Heiman called for nominations for Funding Chair of the CRD Arts Advisory Council.

B. Crook nominated M. Heinz. M. Heinz accepted

Chair Heiman called for nominations a second and third time; there being no other nominations, M. Heinz was acclaimed as Funding Chair.

### **3. Minutes:**

#### **3.1 & 3.2 Arts Advisory Council**

**MOVED** by D. Thorpe, **SECONDED** by M. Heinz, that the minutes of the Arts Advisory Council meetings on 2020/10/6 and 2020/11/21 be approved as circulated.

#### **3.3 & 3.4 Arts Commission Minutes**

**MOVED** by P. Sullivan, **SECONDED** by M. Heinze, that the minutes of the Arts Commission meetings on 2020/10/25 and 2020/11/27 be received for information.

#### **4. ABC'S (Activity By Council Summary)**

Council have been able to enjoy some of the online presentations by local organizations as well as some from outside the region.

#### **5. Chair's Report**

Chair Heiman thanked all members for their continued work and in particular M. Heinz, for her previous work as Funding Chair, and willingness to continue in this position.

Members were advised of the resignation of T. Craig. Chair Heiman read a letter from T. Craig addressed to the Arts Advisory Council.

Staff was asked to circulate "Information for AAC Applicants" to all members for further distribution to their networks.

#### **6. Plenary Debrief**

##### **6.1 Discussion: Internally Restricted Funds**

J. Lam reviewed the discussion notes circulated with the agenda. After discussion, it was agreed to table this topic to the next meeting and determine whether or not a sub-committee should be struck.

##### **6.2 Implications of COVID and recovery**

Council agreed to table this discussion due to insufficient information at this time.

M. Heinz and J. Lam will compile a list of items raised at the Plenary, noting target dates and responsibilities, to be provided at the next meeting.

#### **7. Correspondence**

A thank you letter from Victoria Children's Choir was received for information.

#### **8. New Business**

##### **8.1 Equity, Diversity, Inclusion Committee - TOR**

The Arts Commission has committed to embedding an equity lens in operations and granting programs. Staff have been directed to draft terms of reference for an Equity Advisory Sub-Committee to explore grant adjudication, accessibility of information, data collection and the development of an equitable access policy for all arts funding programs. Outreach will be an instrumental part of this work.

## **8.2 Operating Grant Funding Gap**

As requested at the 2020 Plenary, a draft statement was previously circulated regarding a perceived operating grant funding. This statement will form part of a second recommendation in the staff report to the Arts Commission, along with the 2021 Operating Grant Recommendations. J. Lam reviewed the draft and asked AAC members for their input. After discussion, it was agreed the second recommendation will be included in the staff report, as amended.

## **9. Adjournment**

**MOVED** by M. Heinz to adjourn at 6:04 pm

**CARRIED**



**Arts Advisory Council Meeting – Tuesday, January 5, 2021**

**ABC'S (Activities by Council Summary)**

AAC members recently attended the following events in the region:

Bateman Gallery: Grizzly Bears: Teachers of the Land

Belfry Theatre: *Play Reading - East of Berlin* (online)

Bridge Crawl (online)

Creatively United: *Awaken - Forest Ballet* (Anne Mortiffee and Paul Destrouper)

Deluge: *Pleistocene Park - Tara Nicholson*

Emily Carr String Quartet – Christ Church Cathedral – *Portraits: Hundreds & Thousands*

Empty Gallery: *Megan Dickie: Got To Give*

Esquimalt Community Arts Hub exhibit

Royal BC Museum: Emily Carr: Fresh Seeing – French Modernism and the West Coast

Victoria Arts Council: 2 Exhibits

Victoria Conservatory of Music - Home for the Holidays (online)

As well as events outside the region: (pre travel restrictions)

MOM

Nickle Galleries (University of Calgary) - Annora Brown's classic "Old Man's Garden" (online)

UBC Museum of Anthropology: Kent Monkman Show and ZOOM talk: Miss Chief's Sovereign Eroticism

Vancouver Art Gallery: Modern in the Making; Tin Man; Matilda Aslizadeh



Making a difference...together

## REPORT TO THE ARTS COMMISSION MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27, 2021

---

**SUBJECT**    Outreach Update

### **ISSUE SUMMARY**

This report describes the latest promotion and plans to advance the Capital Regional District (CRD) Arts & Culture Support Services Strategic Plan, while adapting to the ongoing state of emergency and Public Health Officer (PHO) order on province-wide restrictions.

### **BACKGROUND**

The Arts Commission (AC) approved the 2020-2023 Strategic Plan to support grant programs, convene information sessions and celebrate the arts sector in June 2020.

Since then, the province of BC has remained in a state of emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Since November 19, 2020, and until at least February 5, 2021, and by order and direction of the Public Health Officer, all events and gatherings continue to be suspended, including indoor and outdoor activities, musical and theatre performances, galas, silent auctions and movie viewings in cinemas. Drive-in and drop-off events are still permitted. Youth extracurricular activities and art galleries may remain functioning, with COVID-19 safety plans in place.

The local arts community continues to adapt to circumstances, with many programs being delivered online.

Due to the likelihood of a continuation of an ongoing health emergency, staff continue to modify plans for outreach tactics for the arts sector and communication to residents, including:

- Delivering outreach to organizations virtually, including online grant outreach sessions for upcoming grant deadlines and communicating to organizations
- Collecting information from funded organizations on public programming and promoting it through CRD online channels (website and social media)
- Tracking the impact of the ongoing restrictions on arts organizations

### **IMPLICATIONS**

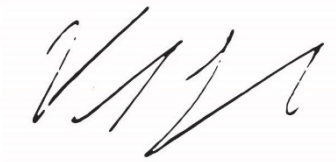
Maintaining outreach and communications with adjusted methodologies allows for progress on the Arts and Culture Support Service Strategic Plan, while monitoring the impact of COVID-19 on the arts sector.

### **CONCLUSION**

As with most sectors, COVID-19 continues to alter the way the Arts and Culture Service provides support and promotion of the arts sector through increased digital outreach activities and additional tracking mechanisms.

**RECOMMENDATION**

That the Outreach Update be received for information.



---

Vimala Jeevanandam  
Community Outreach Coordinator  
Arts & Culture Support Service



---

James Lam  
Manager  
Arts & Culture Support Service



Making a difference...together

## REPORT TO THE ARTS COMMISSION MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27, 2021

---

**SUBJECT**    2021 Operating Grant Recommendations

### **ISSUE SUMMARY**

The Arts Advisory Council have assessed applications to the 2021 Annual Operating Grant program and are providing funding recommendations for the Arts Commission's consideration and approval. They are also recommending an increase to the overall operating grant funding to address a historical funding gap.

### **BACKGROUND**

The 2021 approved budget for the Annual Operating Grant program was \$621,150. In alignment with direction from the Arts Commission the increase in operating funds of \$32,100 over the previous year was reserved for new applicants. The remaining budget of \$589,050 for returning applicants remained at the same level of funding as the previous year.

A total of 23 applications were received at the September 2020 deadline for the Annual Operating Grant program. There were two new applicants plus 21 returning applicants currently receiving support through the program.

The Notice of Significant Concern Policy (NOSC) is a mechanism through which organizations are issued formal notices of areas of operation requiring remediation. The policy allows until the next application to demonstrate appropriate remediation. The flat funding for returning applicants, in addition to the notice period for potential reductions in funding provided by the NOSC policy, created a year where there were no additional funds available to the returning applicant cohort regardless of merit.

The two new applicants, Ptarmigan Theatre and SNAFU Theatre, were assessed as meriting support for the first time through operating grants. Both are recommended for support.

One organization among the returning applicants was deemed to require a Notice of Significant Concern and will be issued a letter detailing the areas requiring attention. If they do not demonstrate that the issues have been remediated by the time of their next application their funding may be reduced, withdrawn or have conditions attached to it, per the NOSC Policy.

Other organizations were assessed as having successfully maintained their focus on their artistic mandates and demonstrated administrative competence and levels of community impact at a level that merited continued support.

At this time self-generated revenues from admissions among visual arts organizations is down 30%, performing arts down 63%, festivals down 86% and other organizations down 37%. Many have implemented systems of payment for online events and donations to generate additional income. Many have also devoted time and resources to planning for interim programming and strategic recovery.

While many familiar arts and cultural experiences will have to wait until safe gatherings are possible, organizations were found to have continued to innovate and reinvent throughout the year, replacing in-person events with virtual live-streams, online programming, pop-up productions and walking tours. With the CRD's support, this creativity is helping to ensure that the arts continue to be central to life in our communities in these particularly challenging times.

In addition to their grant recommendations the AAC provided the following statement:

The Arts Commission has anticipated the need to support continued growth in the arts sector by reserving funds specifically for new applicants in the operating grant program. As a result, two new applicants have been deemed to merit support and are recommended for funding through the program.

Flat funding for returning annual applicants and nominal cost of living increases over the last 10 years, however, has underlined an observable gap between community need as detailed in grant requests versus available funding. This year, requests in the annual funding program exceeded funding by \$173,482.00 or about 30%. This represents a loss in the potential development, growth and employment generated by organizations that would otherwise provide artistic, social and economic benefits to the community.

This lost opportunity will be exacerbated in the fall of 2021 when nine multi-year applicants, who received fixed grants for three years, will apply for another three-year funding cycle. A lack of financial support for new initiatives by multi-year applicants, in addition to those by annual applicants, will limit the capacity of the sector to address growth and change. Continuing the current level of funding will limit the Arts & Culture Service's ability to influence change through the operating grant program and its support and commitment to implementing an equity, diversity and inclusion lens through its major funding program.

When requests from both annual applicants and multi-year applicants are compiled, the average of the annual funding gap over the ten year period from 2009-2018 is just over \$246,000. During that period, CRD funding as a portion of overall revenues of funded organizations has fallen from 10.0% in 2009 to 8.4% in 2018.

To address the underfunding of the sector that has developed over the past decade the Arts Advisory Council recommends an increase of \$246,000 to the operating fund for 2022. The AAC noted that this gap does not reflect total potential growth as many organizations limit their requests with the knowledge that funding is finite in any given year.

An increase of \$246,000 would bring the 2022 operating grant budget to \$2,482,500.

## **ALTERNATIVES**

### *Alternative 1*

The Arts Advisory Council recommends to the Arts Commission:

1. The operating grant recommendations for 2021 be approved as presented.
2. That the operating grant budget for 2022 be increased to \$2,482,500.

*Alternative 2*

That this report be referred back to staff for additional information.

**IMPLICATIONS**

*Financial Implications*

An increase of \$246,000 to the 2022 operating grant budget reflects a 9% increase over 2021.

*Alignment with Board & Corporate Priorities*

Monitoring and adjusting the level of funding for the sector responds to the 2019-2022 Corporate Plan “Community Need, 12c – Financial Support of the Arts” and to Board Initiative 12c-1 “Evaluate the effectiveness of grant programs in supporting organizational sustainability, creative innovation & equity”.

**CONCLUSION**

Operating grants recognize the contribution that arts organizations make to the quality of life in the capital region, the provincial and national visibility they create for the region, and for the role in providing a wide range of arts activities for citizens and visitors. Support of the arts sector also creates employment, stimulates the local economy, and creates opportunities that develop social cohesion.

**RECOMMENDATION**

The Arts Advisory Council recommends to the Arts Commission:

1. The operating grant recommendations for 2021 be approved as presented
2. That the operating grant budget for 2022 be increased by \$246,000 to \$2,482,500.



---

James Lam  
Manager  
Arts & Culture Support Service

**ATTACHMENT(S)**

Appendix A: 2020 Fall Operating Grant Applicants & Recommendations

2020 Fall Operating Grant Applicants & Recommendations		2020			2021				
Based in		Grant	2020/21 REV (CASH)	Recmd as % of rev	Request	2021 Recom'd	2021/22 REV (CASH)	% chg in grant	Recmd as % of proj. rev
Victoria	<b>Atomic Vaudeville</b>	25,000	99,533	25.1	35,000	<b>25,000</b>	224,000	0.0	11.2
Oak Bay	<b>Aventa Ensemble</b>	22,930	105,930	21.6	25,000	<b>22,930</b>	175,250	0.0	13.1
Victoria	<b>CineVic</b>	23,000	203,472	11.3	28,000	<b>23,000</b>	325,772	0.0	7.1
Victoria	<b>Deluge Contemporary Art</b>	38,210	181,810	21.0	41,000	<b>38,210</b>	224,600	0.0	17.0
Victoria	<b>Early Music Society</b>	12,000	88,555	13.6	20,000	<b>12,000</b>	203,630	0.0	5.9
Victoria	<b>Greater Victoria Performing Arts Festival</b>	8,000	59,168	13.5	8,000	<b>8,000</b>	176,680	0.0	4.5
Victoria	<b>Greater Victoria Youth Orchestra</b>	8,000	114,700	7.0	8,000	<b>8,000</b>	151,400	0.0	5.3
Saanich	<b>Kaleidoscope Theatre</b>	55,000	345,025	15.9	60,000	<b>55,000</b>	499,725	0.0	11.0
Victoria	<b>MediaNet</b>	19,000	169,320	11.2	20,000	<b>19,000</b>	190,420	0.0	10.0
Victoria	<b>Open Space</b>	87,930	527,980	16.7	105,000	<b>87,930</b>	512,700	0.0	17.2
SGL	<b>Ptarmigan Arts</b>	0	187,050	1.6	25,000	<b>17,600</b>	224,550	?	7.8
Victoria	<b>Puente Theatre</b>	31,000	205,285	15.1	40,000	<b>31,000</b>	203,850	0.0	15.2
Victoria	<b>SNAFU</b>	0	144,370	8.3	22,132	<b>14,500</b>	205,770	?	7.0
Victoria	<b>Story Theatre</b>	40,000	175,000	22.9	45,000	<b>40,000</b>	238,000	0.0	16.8
Victoria	<b>Theatre Inconnu</b>	27,500	99,543	27.6	27,500	<b>27,500</b>	114,711	0.0	24.0
Victoria	<b>Theatre SKAM</b>	39,000	550,015	7.1	80,000	<b>39,000</b>	590,215	0.0	6.6
Victoria	<b>Victoria Arts Council</b>	24,000	174,850	13.7	25,000	<b>24,000</b>	186,700	0.0	12.9
Victoria	<b>Victoria Baroque Players</b>	9,550	82,385		10,000	<b>9,550</b>	127,835	0.0	7.5
Victoria	<b>Victoria Children's Choir</b>	13,930	151,430	9.2	15,000	<b>13,930</b>	178,500	0.0	7.8
Victoria	<b>Victoria Conservatory of Music</b>	55,000	94,500	58.2	75,000	<b>55,000</b>	129,320	0.0	42.5
Esquimalt	<b>Victoria On Stage</b>	21,500	72,800	29.5	50,000	<b>21,500</b>	349,500	0.0	6.2
Victoria	<b>Victoria Shakespeare Society</b>	20,000	30,875	64.8	20,000	<b>20,000</b>	61,020	0.0	32.8
Victoria	<b>Xchanges Artists' Gallery</b>	8,500	86,060	9.9	10,000	<b>8,500</b>	97,550	0.0	8.7

**Total 589,050**

**794,632**

**621,150**

		2020 Grant	2020 Fall Request	2021 Grant Recommended
<b>ATOMIC VAUDEVILLE</b>	Victoria	25,000	35,000	25,000

### Background/description

Atomic Vaudeville is a Victoria-based performance theatre company founded by Jacob Richmond and Britt Small. It produces a four-show season of original theatre aimed at a younger demographic and presents locally as well as touring.

Artistic Producer: Britt Small

Board: 10 members, Megan Boddy, President

### Comments on the Recommendation

With leadership changes in the company, Atomic Vaudeville, like others during Covid, has taken time to focus on on planning to provide organizational stability, maintain and increase reach, and adapt to new health requirements. The organizational demographic has a particular concern with social justice movements and the ethical responsibilities of cultural organizations to provide decolonized and safe spaces. AV held a summit of presenters and artists "*Cultivating the Moment: Attracting and Nurturing Diverse Voices in Theatre Through Connected, Collaborative, Service-Based Leadership*" where it was determined that supporting diverse voices was the most relevant way for AV to evolve at this time. As a result, the organization has a new mission and mandate, a redesign of their organizational structure and a new 5-year strategic plan.

		2020 Grant	2020 Fall Request	2021 Grant Recommended
<b>AVENTA ENSEMBLE</b>	Oak Bay	22,930	25,000	22,930

### Background/description

The Aventa Ensemble produces and performs a series of contemporary new music concerts locally and tours performances in BC, Canada and Europe. It also commissions and premieres performances of new works.

Founding Artistic Producer: Bill Linwood

Board: 5 members, Emily Schudel, President

### Comments on the Recommendation

Pending ongoing restrictions related to Covid 19, Aventa will be producing all events at the University of Victoria Farquhar Auditorium to take advantage of live-streaming capability. The upcoming season will focus on presentations suited for digital platforms. Aventa has the technical resources and expertise to present 4K video and 24/96 audio for all productions. They anticipate that the next two seasons will update their digital practice and they will implement a digital strategy that links promotion of new music to audience development.



		2020 Grant	2020Fall Request	2021 Grant Recommended
<b>CINEVIC</b>	Victoria	23,000	28,000	23,000

### Background/description

CineVic began as an equipment co-op and filmmaker mutual aid society. It has evolved into a film and media production centre that produces events, commissions work, hosts visiting artists, and engages organizations and artists of other disciplines in collaborative projects. It is one of two funded organizations focussed on media arts, the other being MediaNet.

Executive Director: David Geiss  
 Board: 9 members, Darlene Tait, President

### Comments on the Recommendation

In 2020 Cinevic pivoted their presentation to online events only. The 2021 season will transition to a combination of online events and in-person presentations as health regulations allow. The 2021 Short Circuit Film Festival is anticipated to hold simultaneous online screenings and filmmaker Q&As with in-person at The Vic Theatre, Covid restrictions allowing.

		2020 Grant	2020Fall Request	2021 Grant Recommended
<b>DELUGE CONTEMPORARY ART</b>	Victoria	38,210	41,000	38,210

### Background/description

The Runnymede Enhancement Society (RES) is the society that directs programming of Deluge Contemporary Art that includes gallery exhibitions, The Antimatter Film Festival (festival of "underground" films) and Foreign Matter (selection of films from Antimatter) which tours to other countries. The society first operated as the Rogue Gallery in Market Square, moving in 1995 to the Bay Center until 2005, when it then moved to 636 Yates St. with a name change to Deluge Contemporary Art. In 1998-99, Rogue Art produced the first ANTIMATTER FESTIVAL OF UNDERGROUND SHORT FILM AND VIDEO and became a major focus for future programming, along with FOREIGN MATTER.

Curator/Executive Director: Deborah DeBoer  
 Board: 6 members, Daniel Laskarin, President

### Comments on the Recommendation

Deluge has altered its presentation strategies to maintain much of their programming, but notes that the pandemic "is having a sustained impact on audiences, funding, artists, staff and volunteers". One of its main events, the Antimatter 2020 Film Festival, was produced as a hybrid festival with limited-audience in-person screenings and online streaming. Travel restrictions and limits on gatherings eliminated performative events and visiting artists. Public media installation projects were fewer than in recent years as partner venues are closed or need the time/space to present their own postponed exhibitions.

		2020 Grant	2020Fall Request	2021 Grant Recommended
<b>EARLY MUSIC SOCIETY</b>	Victoria	12,000	20,000	12,000

### Background/description

EMSI is a volunteer-run, presenter of early music. They present approximately 8 concerts annually, featuring original instruments, correct scores and soloists and ensembles from BC, Canada and around the world performing medieval, renaissance, baroque and early classical music. The society fosters the development of early musicianship through workshops, promotional assistance for Early Music soloists and ensembles and the sponsorship of an annual music scholarship/bursary.

Artistic Director: James Young  
 Board: 8 members, Joanne Whitehead, President

### Comments on the Recommendation

In response to the Covid-19 pandemic, EMSI has made innovations in its program delivery such as the video series "Music for the Pause" created in partnership with Victoria Baroque, Early Music Vancouver and Christ Church Cathedral. They made use of outdoor venues, creating three summer garden concerts, which were presented to small audiences. Autumn programmed small-scale concerts according to Provincial Health regulations. Other programming included online lectures and video presentations with concerts recorded in historic churches in the region, and working with the Ancient Music Society of Victoria to produce a tribute to Notre Dame de Paris.

		2020 Grant	2020Fall Request	2021 Grant Recommended
<b>GREATER VICTORIA PERFORMING ARTS FESTIVAL</b>	Victoria	8,000	8,000	8,000

### Background/description

The Greater Victoria Performing Arts Festival is held at various venues in the region for 6 weeks from March to May. It is one of 35 or so music festivals in BC that provide opportunities for music students in a range of disciplines to perform in a public venue and receive a verbal and written critique by music professionals. Adjudicators select performers to advance to "highlights" concerts in various categories of skill including provincial and national levels, and some receive awards (e.g. scholarships). Much of the programming involves adjudicated performances which are not supported under operating grants. Supported activities includes administration and highlight concerts.

Office Administrator: Fuchsia Shier  
 Board: 13 members, Jody Pilling, President

### Comments on the Recommendation

As an event that is exclusively dependent on in-person activity, the 2020 Festival was cancelled due to Covid and the timing of the March shutdown. The Board of Directors is preparing a contingency plan to ensure that Festival 2021 will go ahead by pursuing social distancing or electronic alternatives. If full virtual concerts are required or if hybrid concerts with a small audience and live web streams are deemed appropriate the organization intends to produce a concert from the recorded submissions received from performers.

		2020 Grant	2020Fall Request	2021 Grant Recommended
<b>GREATER VICTORIA YOUTH ORCHESTRA</b>	Victoria	8,000	8,000	8,000

### Background/description

The GVYO presents 3 concerts per year at the Farquar Auditorium. The organization provides young musicians with opportunities to participate in an orchestra under the direction of professional conductors and musicians. Sectional instruction is provided by 13 local professional musicians who coach and mentor the players.

Music Director: Yariv Aloni  
 General Manager: Sheila Redhead  
 Board: 13 members, Rebecca Hissen, President

### Comments on the Recommendation

Much of the large rehearsals for this organization that lead up to its concert series were cancelled as were the final two concerts of the 2020 season. Orchestral rehearsals were broken into smaller Covid permissible sections and the organization has moved online with ensemble performances with an online orchestral work in development.

		2020 Grant	2020Fall Request	2021 Grant Recommended
<b>KALEIDOSCOPE THEATRE</b>	Saanich	55,000	60,000	55,000

### Background/description

Kaleidoscope Theatre presents a series of productions focussed on Theatre for Young People. It also runs a theatre school focussed on the the same demographic. In the early 1990s the company opened a renovated facility on Herald Street in downtown Victoria but closed it after several years due to financial difficulties. It has had combined office and studio/rehearsal space in its present location since 2010. Starting in 2011 there were several management changes until October 2016 when Marcus Handman former ED of the Victoria Symphony and other organizations was hired. Pat Rundell replaced Handman as ED in August 2018.

Executive Director & Artistic Director: Pat Rundell  
 Board: 8 members, Bethany Wilson, President

### Comments on the Recommendation

Kaleidoscope Theatre's 2019-2020 season completed prior to the pandemic shutdown. That season saw growth for the organization along with a move to a large facility in Saanich. The organization conducted audience surveys that indicated a preference for outdoor performance and activities and 2020-2021 saw programming that moved performances to parks and greenspaces throughout the region. This strategy will be continued and form the basis of the upcoming season.

		2020 Grant	2020Fall Request	2021 Grant Recommended
<b>MEDIANET</b>	Victoria	19,000	20,000	19,000

### Background/description

MediaNet's original focus was the production of socially relevant documentaries. In 1999 it expanded to include experimental and narrative works, and its equipment roster has grown from 1 camera to 12 for use by members, and from 1 to 6 computers for editing and it has upgraded its equipment to accommodate High Definition. MediaNet hosts presentations, screenings and artists talks. In 2010 it absorbed OPEN CINEMA as the means through which to present screenings and talks on topics of social relevance. It is one of two funded organizations focussed on media arts, the other being Cinevic. It has recently moved into an autonomous space providing both office and exhibition areas.

Executive Director: Peter Sandmark  
 Board: 9 members, Justin Love, President

### Comments on the Recommendation

The organization has achieved many of the activities set out in their current strategic plan to support the creation of new work and exchanges with other like-minded organizations. As a media arts organization MediaNet was well positioned to move its programming to online delivery. Despite these successes the AAC saw some minor shortcomings in understanding the organization's level of community support in areas such as strategic audience development and marketing. They were issued a Notice of Concern with the expectation of a more fulsome description of initiatives in these areas.

		2020 Grant	2020Fall Request	2021 Grant Recommended
<b>OPEN SPACE</b>	Victoria	87,930	105,000	87,930

### Background/description

Open Space is one of Canada's earliest established artist-run centres presenting and producing exhibitions and events by local, Canadian and international contemporary artists. Programming includes performance, installations, symposia, concerts, residencies, workshops, partnerships, lectures, readings and off-site projects. It owns a two-story building at 510 Fort Street with a revenue tenant on street level. The second-floor is a 2,500-square foot multi-use space, for exhibitions, public performances and contains a resource centre.

Acting Executive Director: Raj Sen  
 Board: 9 members, Charles Campbell, President

### Comments on the Recommendation

OS is building on a Board commitment to be a more accessible place for BIPOC and queer communities by creating dialogue with racialized artists working within traditionally Euro-centric arts institutions. The organization had noted that even before the pandemic their role in the contemporary art sector was demanding a digital presence as developed as a physical one. In response to COVID-19, the gallery closed to the public in March 2020 and then adhered to ongoing public health regulations related to public spaces.

**PTARMIGAN ARTS**

SGI

2020 Grant

0

2020 Fall Request

25,000

2021 Grant  
Recommended

17,600

**Background/description**

Ptarmigan provides opportunities for adults and children to engage in accessible, high-caliber, creative activities through artistic programming and sponsorship and contributes to the development of local musicians and visual artists on the islands. Programming includes concerts, festivals, an art gallery and studio tours to showcase and promote the work of established and emerging community artists.

Executive Director: Lisa Fleming  
Board: 9 members, Dave Wright, Chair

Operating grant eligibility requires previous support through CRD Project funding: 2018 (\$5000), 2019 (\$5000), 2020 (\$3000). First time applicant to Operating grant program.

**Comments on the Recommendation**

NEW APPLICANT - RECOMMENDED FOR SUPPORT. This organization has assumed a leadership role in the arts in the Southern Gulf Islands.

Over the past 4 years, Ptarmigan has grown its presentation of artistic programs making efforts to reach the populations of Galiano, Mayne and Saturna Islands, although logistics of inter-island travel continue to be a challenge in fully meeting this goal. Community support and engagement appears to be strong with growing membership and community partnerships that allow them to plan and deliver programming. They appear to have developed diverse and relatively stable revenue sources, and plan and market their own programs as well as to sponsor arts initiatives put on by other arts groups and artists in SGI by providing administrative, marketing and venue support.

**PUENTE THEATRE**

Victoria

2020 Grant

31,000

2020 Fall Request

40,000

2021 Grant  
Recommended

31,000

**Background/description**

Puente Theatre was founded in Victoria in 1988 by Chilean-born director Lina de Guevara, who remained Artistic Director until she retired in 2011. It explores social issues including, but not limited to, those relating to race and culture and expresses the immigrant experience to Victoria audiences through plays, workshops, theatrical readings and 'forum' performances. It also works to create a multi-ethnic network of immigrant artists and resources designed to attract and engage newcomers, and provides opportunities for work and training for immigrant artists, and is the only theatre company on Vancouver island with a mandate for culturally diverse programming.

Artistic Director: Mercedes Batiz-Benet

General Manager: Judd Palmer

Board: 10 members, Treena Stubel, President

**Comments on the Recommendation**

Puente Theatre is an organization whose purpose was focussed on equity, diversity and inclusion long before the current zeitgeist. It has been successful in completed past programming although several productions in the current season were cancelled due to Covid19. The 2021-2022 season has a significant dependency on the reopening of performance venues however the organization has recently forged a long term relationship with the Firehall Theatre, a prominent and well-respected Vancouver company with a connected mandate. Having already completed one co-production they anticipate this will be a significant partnership for future shows, opening up access to larger mainland audiences and revenue potential. They have also been successful in obtaining operating support from Canada Council. Their application states "While it's wonderful to finally be recognized, we still have to overcome decades of being under-resourced to get us to the same level of capacity as other companies of our age. It's worth noting that the CRD supported us long before either the Canada Council or the BC Arts Council, and we are enormously grateful for your faith and support."

		2020 Grant	2020Fall Request	2021 Grant Recommended
<b>SNAFU</b>	Victoria	0	22,132	14,500

### Background/description

SNAFU creates collaborations with multi-disciplinary artists in dance, theatre, storytelling, puppetry, live music, and visual art. They create unexpected spectacles in unusual spaces, including bike trails, public washrooms, theatres, art galleries, fields, heritage sites, parking garages, schools and prisons.

Co-artistic directors: Ingrid Hansen, Kathleen Greenfield  
 Board: 6 members, Mercedes Batiz Benet, president

Operating grant eligibility requires previous support through CRD Project funding: May 2013 \$2000 (IDEA Grant) ; Jan 2015, \$8000; April 2017; Jan 2018, \$5000; Jan 2019, \$7,000; Jan 2020, \$12,000

### Comments on the Recommendation

NEW APPLICANT - RECOMMENDED FOR SUPPORT. SNAFU creates original work about situations where people are marginalized, oppressed, ignored or forgotten. They are unique as the only theatre company in North America to partner with incarcerated participants, to create *new work* in a federal penitentiary, co-producing with the William Head On Stage Society. The company is particularly interested in issues around inclusion and social justice and its audience demographics reflect this interest. Founded in 2013 the organization appears to have demonstrated measured growth through clear planning while maintaining their focus on their core mandate and values.

		2020 Grant	2020Fall Request	2021 Grant Recommended
<b>STORY THEATRE</b>	Victoria	40,000	45,000	40,000

### Background/description

Story Theatre originated in 1980/81 as a Kaleidoscope Theatre summer program in Victoria libraries. The company performs narrative theatre for young people, primarily in schools in BC as well as other parts of Canada. The performers are, for the most part, emerging or young artists, many are graduates of the University of Victoria Theatre program or the Canadian College of the Performing Arts.

Artistic Producer: Erica Petty  
 Board: 4 members, Kate Wallace, Chair

### Comments on the Recommendation

Story Theatre's programming focusses on commissioning and creating in a playwright-led style. The organization notes that "offering artists power, autonomy, transparency, and a public platform are areas where the company has failed in the past". In March 2020, Story Theatre had two tours on the road. Due to COVID, both tours had to be cancelled the losses of which were covered by a Vancouver Foundation emergency grant. ST has adopted a new 5 year strategic plan. Due to COVID, all touring plans are on hold, greatly impacting earned revenues. Public and private funding are expected to be critical for the organization to survive through the pandemic.

<b>THEATRE INCONNU</b>	Victoria	2020 Grant 27,500	2020Fall Request 27,500	2021 Grant Recommended 27,500
------------------------	----------	----------------------	----------------------------	----------------------------------

**Background/description**

Theatre Inconnu was co-founded in 1978 and presented productions in a variety of genres in a 50-seat theatre in Market Square until 1996. From 1997-2002, the company’s main activity was presenting an annual summer Shakespeare festival. In 2003 and 2004 the company lost CRD and other funding due to operational deficiencies. It returned to its “original mandate of producing alternative theatre” and in spring 2004 established itself as the resident theatre company at the Fernwood (Community Association) Little Hall producing 5-7 plays per season. CRD Operating funding was reinstated in 2005. They focus on local production often employing graduating and current students from UVic or the Canadian College Of Performing Arts.

Founding Artistic Director and General Manager: Clayton Jevne  
Board: 9 members, Laurie Rubin, President

**Comments on the Recommendation**

As with other organizations, the COVID-19 situation has impacted TI’s ability to fulfill a 2020 season that began with their largest ever subscription sales and a completely sold-out run of their first production. The season has since moved online with positive reactions. Theatre Inconnu, like similar organizations its size and scale, has less ability to generate revenues from larger donors. Earned revenue has diminished in tandem with uncertainty from other, normally reliable sources such as Gaming. During this non-live-production period, Theatre Inconnu has started an in-house archival project, drawing on VHS archives of over 100 productions over the past 33 years. Their intent is to produce a mini-documentary spanning their three decades of production to be accessible on their website.

<b>THEATRE SKAM</b>	Victoria	2020 Grant 39,000	2020Fall Request 80,000	2021 Grant Recommended 39,000
---------------------	----------	----------------------	----------------------------	----------------------------------

**Background/description**

Theatre SKAM began as a collective of Victoria artists creating new work and presented its first production in 1995, incorporating two years later. The company presents alternative, contemporary theatre and is known for its use of unusual performance spaces which have included a café, a loading dock, a pick-up truck, Esquimalt's Macaulay Point Park and the Galloping Goose Trail. It's most recent success is the Pop-Up Theatre, an 8 to 10 seat theatre house in a truck that can accommodate live performance or projections. Its primary focus is presenting to Greater Victoria audiences using local artists, and they have toured to Vancouver, the BC interior and Toronto.

Artistic Producer: Matthew Payne  
General Manager: Anne Taylor  
Board: 8 members, Sarah Webb, President

**Comments on the Recommendation**

The hiring of a General Manager has provided cohesive fiscal management for the company linking together the four components of the overall operations: The SKAMPede Festival, Pop-Up Delivery, Productions and the School. The current strategic plan calls for finding secure space from which to deliver these activities. The organization has met with success in moving its school online and is confident that other programming which is designed for outdoor presentation will continue under their Covid Safety Plan. This organization had a significant request for increased support which could not be considered due to funding limits.



<b>VICTORIA ARTS COUNCIL</b>	Victoria	2020 Grant 24,000	2020Fall Request 25,000	2021 Grant Recommended 24,000
------------------------------	----------	----------------------	----------------------------	----------------------------------

**Background/description**

The VAC is one of about 70 community arts councils in BC that are funded through the BC Arts Council to support the arts (particularly in rural communities). Many community arts councils receive BCAC funding based on a per capita formula. Originally based in Victoria and known as the Greater Victoria Community Arts Council, it moved and based its operations in the Cedar Hill rec Centre for a number of years. The organization rebranded as the Victoria Arts Council two years ago and is now based back in Victoria on Store Street.

Executive Director: Kegan McFadden  
Board: 8 members, Paul McNair, President

**Comments on the Recommendation**

One of the main program events, the annual community art show “LOOK” had to be cancelled due to Covid, as was a planned international residency in Mexico. Programming in the main gallery and satellite venues were shuttered initially and the organization created a digital magazine UNTIL to deliver its program online featuring the work of existing member artists as well as new artists. The VAC produced six themed issues of the magazine during the spring and fall working with approximately 100 artists and intends to re-introduce UNTIL as a quarterly. Once possible, the VAC maintained an exhibition schedule with appropriate Covid safety plans in place.

<b>VICTORIA BAROQUE PLAYERS</b>	Victoria	2020 Grant 9,550	2020Fall Request 10,000	2021 Grant Recommended 9,550
---------------------------------	----------	---------------------	----------------------------	---------------------------------

**Background/description**

The Victoria Baroque Music Society supports the activities of the Victoria Baroque Players who provide performances of music from the Baroque to classical periods, played on period instruments. The organization produces about five main stage performances per year throughout, and outside of, the CRD. The organization differs from the Early Music Society (current operating grant recipient) in that it is an ensemble whose core members live on Vancouver Island. The organization also provides workshops for local students and adults. VBMS received Operating funding for the first time in 2020.

Artistic Director: Soile Stratkauskas  
Board: 11 members, Ralph Huenemann, President

**Comments on the Recommendation**

Due to the Covid pandemic, two of VB's main season productions (in March and May 2020) had to be cancelled. VBMS partnered with the Early Music of the Islands in the production of "Music for the Pause", an online concert series and a separate series of chamber music concerts, performed for a small audience that was safely, physically distanced at St. John the Divine. Several concerts were livestreamed. With self-generated revenue greatly curtailed the organization has been successful in soliciting “a great surge” of donations and were the recipient of a BC Arts Council Resilience Grant. As a significant portion of the organization’s audience are seniors, they anticipate a hesitation by them to return to live performance even once Covid passes. As such, VBM anticipates maintaining livestream options once in-person programming can resume.

**VICTORIA CHILDREN'S CHOIR**

Victoria

2020 Grant

13,930

2020 Fall Request

15,000

2021 Grant  
Recommended

13,930

**Background/description**

The organization provides choral training and performance opportunities for children between the ages of 9 and 16. There are 3 choirs providing training in musical theory, ear training and sight reading:

- 1) The Recital Choir (ages 10 to 12) auditioned ensemble builds on existing vocal interests and talents.
- 2) The Concert Choir (12 and older) for those with a practiced understanding and love of choral music; students study challenging pieces as they master their vocal abilities. Concert Choir instruction is designed to achieve an international-standard of singing.
- 3) The Prelude Choir (ages 7-9) non-auditioned, introduction and development of early singing skills

Artistic Director: Teodora Georgieva

Executive Director: Carla Tadla

Board: 7 members plus two ex officio; Catherine Fouracre, President

**Comments on the Recommendation**

Many 2020 performances were canceled including their end of year signature concert and performances with the Pacific Opera and Victoria Symphony. The VCC transitioned to online programming with a hybrid program of smaller group, in-person rehearsals and virtual performances. Choristers were introduced to music technologies and experimentation in the development of a virtual choir project although the organization faces challenges related to the costs of providing access to online rehearsals and concert production. The 2021 season will continue online programming with the two signature concerts being planned as a live-streamed event and, when possible, regular rehearsal formats are being redesigned to answer provincial health safety requirements of smaller groups and small ensemble work.

**VICTORIA CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC**

Victoria

2020 Grant

55,000

2020 Fall Request

75,000

2021 Grant  
Recommended

55,000

**Background/description**

The Victoria Conservatory of Music is housed in a renovated church with 50,000-square-feet of offices, classrooms, studios and two concert halls used for public presentations. They also have agreements for use of the Metro Theatre which is a space leased to and managed by Intrepid Theatre. VCM has five inter-related, distinct enterprises – a community school, a professional music school, a summer school, a music therapy centre, and a public presentation enterprise (“VCM Presents”). The latter is the only aspect of VCM operations that is eligible for CRD Operating support.

CEO: Jane Butler McGregor

Dean and Chief Artistic Officer: Stephen Green

Board: 16 members, Shannon von Kalenberg, Chair

**Comments on the Recommendation**

The Victoria Conservatory of Music is primarily an educational institution but receives support through operating grants for its presentation program “VCM Presents”. The organization manages two performing arts venues for its own presentation, both of which are used extensively by the local arts community. As of mid-March 2020, the VCM closed due to COVID-19 resulting in the cancellation or postponing of all remaining VCM Presents 2019-2020 concerts/events. The mandate has since expanded to include online live streaming and broadcasting technologies and to broaden their reach provincially, nationally, and globally. This included a commitment to increasing efforts to reflect more cultural diversity “as we re-frame the performance and education of Classical and in general, all Western music, to better align with Indigenous, Black and People of Colour (IBPoC) representation and the need for decolonization in the arts.” The upcoming concert season will allow for small "studio-size" live audiences while streaming locally and globally, and include a diversity of local and international performers.

**VICTORIA ON STAGE**

Esquimal

2020 Grant

21,500

2020 Fall Request

50,000

2021 Grant  
Recommended

21,500

**Background/description**

A community-based, volunteer organization that has produced and presented a range of musical theatre, focussing in recent years on popular musical theatre including Broadway shows and Gilbert and Sullivan. It began at the Royal Theatre but moved to the McPherson Playhouse in 1965. Typically, two musical theatre productions are presented per year. The organization owns a warehouse space that functions as rehearsal hall, office, storage and scene shop.

General Manager: Rebecca Marchand

Board: 9 members, Francesca Bitonti, President

**Comments on the Recommendation**

The Victoria Operatic Society is now known as the Victoria On Stage Musical Theatre Society. Their 2019/2020 season was cancelled due to Covid and the closing of the McPherson Playhouse. Their ability to launch a season is pending Provincial Health regulations and venue availability. The organization notes that their activities have focussed on developing live streaming opportunities (both within the VOS facility and in the future with RMTS); increased camps and classes, including classes for adults; mentorship for new locally based instructors as they build their portfolio; support of local artists through the provision of rehearsal space (with Covid Safety Plan in place), provision of space for Lifetime Networks - a not for profit organization that establishes social networking and ongoing supportive friendships for persons with disabilities - for the theatrical portion of their program.

## Background/description

The GVSF launched in 2003 with one production in Centennial Square. In 2004 it moved to St. Ann's Academy with two productions and in 2005 moved to the grounds of Camosun College. In 2007, after the resignation of several founding board members and the artistic director, it returned to one production. Since then the Society has returned to a two play season and now also performs one of the plays over one weekend in Esquimalt at Saxe Point Park, in cooperation with the Township Community Arts Council.

Artistic Director: Karen Lee Pickett

Board: 5 members, Cam Culham, President

4 member Advisory Board

## Comments on the Recommendation

Covid health shutdowns occurred March 17 at a critical point in the VSS production schedule. With the level of uncertainty at that point the VSS Board felt that it had no option but to cancel its entire summer event schedule. Contracted artists were paid as required and the VSS notes that *"Our operating grant from the CRD was consistent in 2020 despite our cancellation of programming, and has allowed us to maintain ongoing costs and have a small surplus to weather the continuing uncertainty. This support has made a huge difference for our organization, and means that we are able to plan an upcoming season."*

The VSS has developed three options for 2021 depending on the health phase: Phase 4 - original 2020 programming of As You Like It and Hamlet, outdoors on the grounds of Camosun College's Lansdowne campus and continuing performances at Saxe Point in Esquimalt; Phase 3 - a production of Cymbeline designed to meet social distancing requirements for audiences and minimizing social contact for actors. One production will reduce costs balancing reduced audience and lower revenues; Phase 2 - Six Shakespearean soliloquys performed with introductions that will engage audiences with the complexities of Shakespearean language. Designed to work in public spaces for small, distanced audiences, this soliloquy-based format will allow for complete social distancing between actors and audience.

**XCHANGES ARTISTS' GALLERY**

Victoria

2020 Grant

8,500

2020 Fall Request

10,000

2021 Grant  
Recommended

8,500

**Background/description**

Xchanges is an artist run organization, originally the Signal Hill Arts Centre, and renamed Xchanges in 1979 when it relocated to a space on North Park Street. In 1998 it relocated to a 16,000-square-foot building on William Street in Victoria West and then in February 2009 to 2333 Government Street. The previous facility, by virtue of its collective membership, had gallery space and a multi-purpose annex, a workshop with power tools, indoor and outdoor kilns, 18 studios and storage. The new venue is eight individual studios and one group studio (a photography darkroom). Xchanges has a submission process for monthly exhibitions and generates some income through offering art classes and venue rentals. XChanges is volunteer run; all operations are managed by the Board.

Board: 10 members; Heidi Bergstrom, President

**Comments on the Recommendation**

Covid-19 resulted in the gallery closing and the suspension of other activities including life drawing, Art Passage and Pop Up shows, and Artist-in-Residence program until September 2020. The gallery space was temporarily converted to temporary studio space in alignment with Covid-19 protocols for social distancing. The organization was in the process of improving its online presence and was able to pivot online quickly creating an on-line exhibition on their website and Instagram accounts. Further web-based initiatives resulted in launching online virtual life drawing sessions and other programs that promoted artists with introductory videos and enable artists talks via Zoom and YouTube. Last year this organization was been put on notice that their budget size is under the newly revised minimum required for funding through operating grants which may affect their eligibility under this program for 2022.

Dec. 2020.

Dear CRT Arts + Culture  
team,

Wishing you joy  
during the holidays  
and happiness  
in the new year.

On behalf of all of us at the Victoria  
Children's Choir, thank you so much  
for your generous support. This has  
been a year of inspiring stories and  
many challenges. Thanks to supporters  
like you, the VCC is still singing!  
Our Classical Christmas Concert will premiere  
virtually on Dec. 22nd. Thank you and  
Happy Holidays!