



Making a difference...together

Minutes of a Meeting of the ARTS COMMISSION

Held January 25, 2023, in Room 488, 625 Fisgard St., Victoria, BC

EP = Electronic Participation

Present: **Members:** M. Alto (Chair); P. Brent, D. Cavens, S. Epp, G. Lemon, D. Lajeunesse, C. Plant, C. Smart, **EP:** K. Roessingh

Staff: Chris Gilpin, Manager, Arts Development Service; V. Jeevanandam, Community Outreach Coordinator; H. Heywood, Administrative Assistant (recorder)

Also Present: C. McNeil-Smith, Mayor of Sidney, J. Verano, Chair, Arts Advisory Council, S. Donaldson, Funding Chair, Arts Advisory Council

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 pm.

1 Territorial Acknowledgement

2 Approval of Agenda

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

CARRIED

3 Introductions

Chair Alto welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked members to each provide a brief introduction.

4 Adoption of Minutes

MOVED by Member Lajeunesse, **SECONDED** by Member Brent,
That the minutes of the September 28, 2022, Arts Commission meeting be adopted as read.

CARRIED

5 Chair's Remarks

Chair Alto acknowledged the important work of the Arts Commission. In addition to this, it was suggested the Commission could take on a more proactive role in advancing the understanding of the value of Arts & Culture and its important benefits across the region. Members were asked to consider opportunities for increasing awareness of the arts at the Board level, in their jurisdictions, and for growth of the CRD Arts Service throughout the region. At the February meeting there will be a visioning session to discuss ideas for the next four years.

6 Presentations/Delegations - None

7 Commission Business

7.1 Arts Advisory Council Update

7.1.1 Arts Advisory Council (AAC) Chair's Report (Verbal)

For the benefit of the new Arts Commission members, J. Verano, AAC Chair, provided an overview of the Arts Advisory Council's responsibilities, including adjudication of six grant

program intakes. She reviewed the scope of work involved in the Operating Grants program, for which the recommendations will be presented by S. Donaldson, Funding Chair.

Commission members acknowledged the thoroughness of the adjudication process and thanked the AAC for the work they do.

Arts Advisory Council Minutes for Information – January 10, 2023

7.1.2 Arts Advisory Council Activities by Council Summary – January 10, 2023

7.2 Manager's Report

C. Gilpin welcomed all new and returning members and noted that staff are excited to support the work of the Commission in the coming year and term.

He provided a summary of the granting and outreach work since the last Commission meeting in September, highlighting the following:

- the Operating grant intake and adjudication took place over the fall; recommendations will be presented today;
- the first Project grant deadline was on January 19th; 28 applications were received, which is in line with the five-year average. Recommendations to come forward in March;
- the Spring project-based grant programs have been launched: IDEA, Incubator, and Equity programs have a March application deadline and recommendations will be presented in May; the second Project Grant deadline is in April and recommendations will be presented in June;
- there will be online information sessions for all programs to support returning and new applicants; past sessions have been well received;
- increase in engagement through the online info sessions and the CRD Arts & Culture newsletter.

C. Gilpin reviewed past Summits for the benefit of new members. Planning and consultation for the 2023 Summit is ongoing:

- input is being gathered through an advisory committee representing the arts sector; Staff have also met with arts leaders from the Southern Gulf Islands and an Indigenous advisor;
- Chair Alto will be MC for the event which will be held at the Bauman Centre;
- the Summit will take place in May; the exact date to be confirmed shortly;
- feedback gathered at the Summit will be linked to the Strategic planning process.

Arts & Culture Strategic Plan

- The current Arts & Culture strategic plan concludes on December 31, 2023. The next strategic plan will encompass 2024 – 2027. A proposed process for development of a new strategic plan will be presented by staff at the February meeting.

7.3 2023 Annual Operating Grant Recommendations

C. Gilpin referred to the staff report and provided an overview of the process and rationale for the 2023 recommendations. It was noted the modifications to the Operating Grants program guidelines and application forms, made in accordance with Phase 2 of the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion

(EDI) Implementation Framework, resulted in increased information for the adjudication team that contributed to the evaluations.

The twenty-one returning organizations and one new applicant were recommended for funding; a second new applicant was not recommended for funding at this time.

C. Gilpin introduced S. Donaldson, AAC Funding Chair, who has extensive experience with adjudication committees having worked at the BC Arts Council and in the non-profit sector.

S. Donaldson commented on the rigorous adjudication process noting the adjudicators were fair minded and generous of spirit. The application, including the new questions relating to EDI, provided good evaluative criteria.

C. Gilpin clarified the Arts Commission's 2023 budget direction which indicated the funding increase should be allocated to a first priority of "new, high-performing" operating grant applicants and second priority of "project-based programs" (IDEA, Equity, Incubator, Project).

The Commission thanked staff for the report noting it was particularly helpful to have a clear explanation of how the increase to the funding budget would be distributed.

MOVED by Member Plant, **SECONDED** by Member Lemon,
That the 2023 Annual Operating Grant recommendations be approved as presented.

CARRIED

8 New Business - None

9 Adjournment

MOVED by Member Epp, **SECONDED** by Member Roessingh,

That the meeting be adjourned at 5:40 pm

CARRIED

CHAIR

RECORDER