



Making a difference...together

Additional Circulation: C. Gilpin T. Robbins N. Chan R. Lachance V. Jeevanandam J. Verano S. Donaldson

ARTS COMMISSION

Notice of Meeting on **Wednesday, January 25, 2023, at 4:30 p.m.**

Room 488, 4th Floor, 625 Fisgard Street, Victoria, BC; and Electronic Participation

M. Alto (Chair)	D. Cavens	D. Lajeunesse	C. Plant	C. Smart
P. Brent	S. Epp	G. Lemon	K. Roessingh	

In keeping with directives from the Province of BC, there is limited space for the public to attend CRD Board/Committee/Commission meetings in-person at this time. However, the public may continue to view meeting materials online. A Zoom link for viewing the January Arts Commission meeting live can be found at the bottom of this page (not available as a recording later). If you wish to attend a meeting in-person, please email legserv@crd.bc.ca.

AGENDA

1. Territorial Acknowledgement
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Introductions
4. Adoption of Minutes of September 28, 2022
Recommendation: That the September 28, 2022, minutes of the Arts Commission be adopted.
5. Chair's Remarks
6. Presentations/Delegations
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 10, 2023
 - 7.1.3. Arts Advisory Council *Activities by Council Summary*, January 10, 2023
 - 7.2. Manager's Report
 - Operations Report (verbal)
 - Outreach Report (written)
 - 7.3. 2023 Annual Operating Grant Recommendations
Recommendation: The Arts Advisory Council recommends to the Arts Commission:
That the 2023 Annual Operating Grant recommendations be approved as presented.
8. New Business
9. Adjournment

Next Meeting: February 22, 2023

Commissioners: To ensure quorum, please advise Heather Heywood (hheywood@crd.bc.ca) if you or your alternate cannot attend.



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**Minutes of a Meeting of the ARTS COMMISSION
Held September 28, 2022, in Room 488, 625 Fisgard St., Victoria, BC**

EP = Electronic Participation

Present: Members: J. Loveday (Chair); **EP:** W. Gardner, L. Hundleby, C. Plant, K. Roessingh
Staff: Chris Gilpin, Manager, Arts Development Service; V. Jeevanandam, Community Outreach Coordinator; N. More, Senior Administrative Secretary (recorder)

Also Present, EP: J. Verano, Chair, Arts Advisory Council; C. Caravaca, Chair, EDI Subcommittee

Absent: S. Epp, C. Green, G. Lemon, D. Lajeunesse

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

1 Territorial Acknowledgement

2 Approval of Agenda

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

CARRIED

3 Adoption of Minutes

MOVED by Member Roessingh, **SECONDED** by Member Gardner,
That the minutes of the June 22, 2022, Arts Commission meeting be adopted as read.

CARRIED

4 Chair's Remarks

Chair Loveday remarked on the end of the current four-year term of the local governments and that this meeting would be his last on the Arts Commission. He expressed that there were others who have spent a lot of time and energy giving to this Arts Commission over the years for whom this is their last meeting, as well, and he wanted to acknowledge all of their work and what an honour and privilege it had been to serve on this Commission, and that the important work on this agenda encapsulates some of what had been accomplished together.

5 Presentations/Delegations There were none.

6 Motion to Close the Meeting

MOVED by Member Roessingh, **SECONDED** by Member Hundleby,
That the meeting be closed in accordance with the *Community Charter*, Part 4, Division 3, 90(1)(a) personal information about an identifiable individual who holds or is being considered for a position as an officer, employee or agent of the regional district or another position appointed by the regional district.

CARRIED

The Commission moved to the closed session at 4:03 p.m.

The Commission rose from the closed session at 4:07 p.m. with the following report:

That Dylan Clark, Sue Donaldson, Richard Gale, and Sarah Reid each be re-appointed to the Arts Advisory Council for a term of three years ending on December 31, 2025.

7 Commission Business

7.1 Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) Implementation Plan – Phase 4 Recommendations

C. Gilpin provided highlights of the report. C. Caravaca remarked on the process of finding solutions for achieving the goals of the Arts Commission (AC) with an EDI lens. Her comments included the following points:

- The process has been iterative, starting with the problem statement from the Arts Commission and involving staff, the Arts Advisory Council (AAC), and the community, to find an authentic solution to equity seeking groups encountering barriers, of which there are two: unsuccessful in the application process; or, not even entering the ring.
- The process involved staff going to community in several rounds, sharing with the EDI Sub-committee, carrying it up to the AAC, and making sure of getting it right. This tonight is one of those iterative rounds after hearing from community and doing the work of the Sub-committee.
- Different lived experiences and perspectives fed into the vision. C. Caravaca expressed having confidence that this Phase is going to be successful, be well-received and achieve the goals that the AC set out at the beginning of this process.

Clarification in response to questions from the Commission included the following points:

- Phase 4 makes modifications to the project based grants, but none of the modifications have financial implications. These are all changes to the way in which the grants will be delivered in order to include equity seeking groups or to lower the barriers to the project application process.
- In discussions with indigenous groups in the region, inclusion within the project grants of a way to raise the visibility of providing compensation to what is identified here as “Indigenous Elders” and “Cultural Carriers”, led to the use of both terms. Often at an arts or culture event, indigenous elders are brought in to give the territorial acknowledgment at the beginning of the event. Cultural carriers are persons from indigenous communities who do not identify as elders, but who can do the acknowledgement in a good way. The term “Cultural Carriers” is specific to indigenous culture, not cultures of other groups or in a general sense.
- Question (5.) from the revised Project Grant application on page 6 of Appendix C, quoted below, was discussed in regards to the visibility of compensation to elders and cultural carriers:

5. How does your project contribute to the development of arts in the CRD, including your approach to paying artists or honoraria for Indigenous Elders or Cultural Carriers if they are involved in arts events (refer to your project budget where appropriate)?

MOVED by Member Plant, **SECONDED** by Member Roessingh,
That the two sentences of question 5 of the project grant application be separated into separate questions, as follows:

- 5. How does your project contribute to the development of arts in the CRD?*
- 6. Please include your approach to paying artists or honoraria for Indigenous Elders or Cultural Carriers if they are involved in arts events (refer to your project budget where appropriate)?*

That the questions following the new question 6 be renumbered, and that the same revision be made anywhere else in the document where the two sentences appear as one question.

CARRIED

C. Gilpin provided clarification that the success of Phase 4 will be reported during Phase 5, which will be a review of all the earlier phases, will report back to the strategic planning process and will last for the majority of the year, concluding in November 2023.

MOVED by Member Hundleby, **SECONDED** by Member Roessingh,
The EDI Sub-Committee recommends to the Arts Advisory Council to recommend to the Arts Commission:
That EDI Lens Phase 4 modifications to the IDEA, Incubator, Equity, and Projects grant programs be implemented for application intakes in 2023 as amended.

CARRIED

7.2 2023 Budget for Arts and Culture Support Service

C. Gilpin provided highlights of the report. The Commission expressed appreciation for the work.

The Commission acknowledged that quorum would soon be lost. Discussion included that the budget was a provisional budget and could be amended prior to the final budget in March.

MOVED by Member Plant, **SECONDED** by Member Roessingh,
That the remaining items on this agenda be approved as presented by the staff reports.

CARRIED

L. Hundleby opposed

THEREFORE BY CONSENT:

The Arts Commission recommends to the Capital Regional District Board:
That the 2023 Arts & Culture Service Budget be approved as presented.

CARRIED

L. Hundleby left the meeting at 4:36 p.m. Quorum was lost.

- 7.3 Outreach Update
- 7.4 Arts Advisory Council Update
 - 7.4.1 Arts Advisory Council Chair’s Report (Verbal)
 - 7.4.2 Arts Advisory Council Minutes for Information
 - 7.4.3 Arts Advisory Council *Activities by Council Summary*
- 8 Correspondence
 - 8.1 Art Gallery of Greater Victoria, 8 August 2022, re: 2022 Operating Grant
 - 8.2 Arts in Our Own Communities
- 9 New Business There was none.
- 10 Adjournment

BY CONSENT

That the meeting be adjourned at 4:36 p.m.

CARRIED

CHAIR

RECORDER



Making a difference...together

Minutes of a Meeting of the CRD Arts Advisory Council

Tuesday, January 10, 2023 at 5:00 – 6:00 pm

(EP=Electronic Participation)

AAC Members: C. Caravaca (EP), D. Clark (EP), R. Ditor, S. Donaldson, R. Gale (EP), W. Greaves (EP), C. Haska (EP), A. Hershberg (EP), S. Reid, J. Verano (EP)

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

1. **Territorial Acknowledgement** – C. Gilpin gave a territorial acknowledgement

2. **Approval of Agenda**

MOVED by R. Gale, **SECONDED** by C. Haska, to approve the agenda as circulated.

CARRIED

3. **Elections**

3.1 **Nominations and election of Chair**

C. Gilpin reviewed the procedure for elections and then called for nominations for Chair of the CRD Arts Advisory Council (AAC).

S. Donaldson nominated J. Verano. J. Verano accepted.

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

3.2 **Nominations and election of Funding Chair**

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

J. Verano nominated S. Donaldson. S. Donaldson accepted.

Chair Verano called for nominations a second and third time; there being no other nominations, S. Donaldson was acclaimed as Funding Chair.

4. **Minutes:**

4.1 Adoption: 2022/10/11 Arts Advisory Council

MOVED by C. Caravaca, **SECONDED** by S. Donaldson, that the October 11, 2022 minutes of the Arts Advisory Council be approved as presented.

CARRIED

4.2 Arts Commission Minutes of 2022/09/28 received for information.

5. **Chair's Remarks**

Chair Verano thanked the AAC members for their work in 2022.

The first 2023 Arts Commission, at the end of January, will be the first time the group will meet with the new members.

It was noted R. Ditor will be rejoining the AAC for 2023.

6. Manager's Report

C. Gilpin updated members regarding the January 19th project grant deadline, noting an online information session took place earlier in the day for potential applicants.

An online orientation for new Arts Commission members also took place today. All new members were able to attend: Duncan Cavens, Esquimalt; Carrie Smart, Oak Bay; Marianne Alto, Victoria (appointed Chair of the AC); Paul Brent, SGI. They are looking forward to working on the Arts Commission. There are five returning AC members.

The first meeting of the AC will be January 25th when they will review the Operating Grant recommendations.

There will be an Arts Champions Summit this year; the Outreach Report will provide more information.

The Arts & Culture Strategic Plan expires in 2023. The goal is to have a new strategic plan in place by the end of the year. Once the process is determined there will be opportunities for input from Arts Advisory Council members.

7. Outreach Report

Regarding the Arts Champions Summit, V. Jeevanandam noted that planning is ongoing, most recently with a survey of the arts sector to ask for input on barriers to attendance, Summit format and activities.

A date for the Summit should be available by the next AAC meeting.

5:20 pm R. Ditor joined the meeting

8. 2023 Annual Operating Grant Recommendations

Chair Verano commented on the recommendations as presented and C. Gilpin advised that notification letters will be sent after approval by the Arts Commission at the end of the month.

MOVED by S. Donaldson, **SECONDED** by C. Haska,

The Arts Advisory Council recommends to the Arts Commission:

That the 2023 Annual Operating Grant recommendations be approved as presented.

CARRIED

9. Grant Adjudication Schedule 2023

Chair Verano asked members to review the dates and to notify staff as soon as possible if they have any conflicts.

C. Gilpin highlighted the important dates within each adjudication. Chair Verano asked staff to send a schedule of AAC regular meetings to all members for planning purposes.

10. ABCs (Activity by Council Summary)

Chair Verano commented on the number of events attended. Members highlighted some of the events and noted they greatly appreciate the invitations.

Staff were asked to order name tags for the new AAC members.

11. Adjournment

MOVED by C. Haska, that the meeting be adjourned at 5:40 pm.

CARRIED

Arts Advisory Council Meeting – Tuesday, January 10, 2023 ABC'S

(Activities by Council Summary)

AAC members recently attended the following events in the region:

Allegra Singers - Let There Be Peace winter concert

Belfry Theatre- Vigil; Intimate Apparel

Bluegrass Christmas

Cinderbloc art show

Confabulation

Dance Victoria: BalletX

Farquhar Auditorium, UVic: Josephine; Piqsiq

Fortune Gallery: Nicole Sleeth show

Friends of Dorothy: Drag + Spoken-word

Hapax Theatre: Incredible Glowing Women

Kaleidoscope: Frozen River

Little Fernwood Gallery: Todd Lambeth / Mike McLean show

Madrona Gallery - Michael Nicoll Yahlgulanaas solo exhibition

Newcombe Singers - Reflections of Light winter concert

Pacific Opera: Carmen

Paper Street Theatre: Grimm and Roadtrip

Rockslide: Small Works show

RBCM - Wildlife Photographer of the Year travelling exhibition

Soweto Gospel Choir

Theatre Inconnu: The Black Rider

Victoria Arts Council: Little Gems

Victoria on Stage: Rocky Horror

Out of town:

Nanaimo Art Gallery- Cindy Mochizuki Tides & Moons: Herring Capital solo exhibition

Vancouver @ the Vogue: Mae Martin (comedy)

Outreach Report- Arts Commission – Jan 25, 2023

BACKGROUND

Grant outreach

Leading up to the first Project Grant intake of 2023 (deadline: Jan 19), staff have deployed a variety of communication materials to build awareness of the program and drive application from new applicants and remind returning applicants. Materials include print and Facebook advertising focused on participating jurisdictions and an e-newsletter to 810 CRD Arts & Culture subscribers. Staff also hosted an online information session on January 10, 2023.

The results of outreach have been higher than January 2021 as evidenced by:

- Increased attendance at the online information session (14 vs 8 – a 75% increase over January 2022)
- A higher clickthrough rate on Project Grant links on the e-newsletter (53 vs 35 – a 51% increase over January 2022)

Arts Champions Summit Planning

On April 27, 2022, the Arts Commission directed staff to begin planning the next Arts Champions Summit (Summit), together with an Advisory Planning Committee of arts community members, to be held in spring 2023 with the main purpose of informing the next CRD Arts and Culture Support Service (CRD Arts & Culture) strategic plan.

The Summits support 2020-2023 Strategic Plan Initiative 1c, to “facilitate dialogue and celebrate the arts through convening opportunities.” Beginning in 2016, the CRD Arts & Culture Support Service (CRD Arts & Culture) has hosted a Summit every two years, with a postponement in 2020. Past Summits have been used to engage with the arts community, to support CRD Arts & Culture strategic planning and implementation, and to provide opportunities for celebrating the arts sector, facilitating dialogue within the sector, networking, and peer-to-peer learning. The 2016 and 2018 Summits were both hosted in person at the Baumann Centre, and the 2021 Summit was hosted online due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Early Summit Planning

In August 2022, staff began planning of the next Summit. Early planning of the 2023 Arts Champions Summit included:

- forming and consulting with a Summit Advisory Committee composed of representatives from the arts sector. Guidance from this group is intended to ensure the Summit aligns with the sector's priorities.
- receiving input from municipal arts workers through a roundtable meeting.
- a consultation with Bradley Dick, an accomplished artist and Iəkʷəŋən Cultural Facilitator
- a virtual meeting with representatives of Southern Gulf Islands arts sector

Pre-Summit Survey

To validate what was heard through early engagement, staff distributed a survey to the arts sector about format, attendance and activities. The survey received 37 complete responses, a small increase (6%) over the last Summit planning survey. The following points summarize the key findings of the survey.

- The activities that were identified as having the most value in order of most value was:
 - 'Learning about topics relevant to the region's arts sector through presentations and panel discussions' – with 65% (24) rating it as very valuable or extremely valuable
 - This was followed closely by 'providing your input on CRD Arts & Culture planning and initiatives – 60% (22) rating it as very valuable or extremely valuable
 - 'Being matched with attendees in comparable roles/organizations to discuss common issues' – 49% (18) rating it very valuable or extremely valuable
- The largest barrier to attending the Arts Champions Summit was 'Time- can't get time off of work,' with 27% (10) respondents indicating this was a barrier. The solutions identified by respondents suggested hosting additional events in the evening and on different days, having recordings of the event available, paying for attendance, and keeping the event short.
- 45% (20) stated that they had no barriers to attendance. After time, the barriers chosen were 'access to childcare or eldercare' at 8% (3) and 'concern about a lack of accessibility (physical, communication or otherwise)' 8% (3) with one respondent noting that they were not attending any events without covid protocols. Respectively, solutions identified were onsite childcare, accommodations considered by default (ensuring building access, options for seating, considering intense lighting and poor sound quality) and covid protocol, including mandatory masking and physical distancing. Note that respondents could indicate more than one barrier to attendance.
- 35% (13) of respondents would probably or definitely use livestream or webinar presentations and/or online break rooms, indicating sufficient support for a hybrid presentation
- Themes identified in the comments indicated interest in dialogue around funding (4), requests for comfortable seating (2), and a request that organizers include "support staff in the arts, not just creators and administrators."

Next steps of Summit Planning

The Summit is now tentatively scheduled for May 2023 from 9am-12pm noon with a hybrid presentation. Next steps include finalizing the date and securing the venue.

We're in discussion with the Baumann Centre as our preferred location. Currently, our two date options are Wednesday, May 17th and Monday, May 29th.



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REPORT TO ARTS ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING OF TUESDAY, JANUARY 10, 2023

SUBJECT **Review of Arts & Culture 2023 Annual Operating Grant Recommendations**

ISSUE SUMMARY

The 2023 Annual Operating Grant adjudication committee has completed its work and made recommendations for review by the Arts Advisory Council and Arts Commission.

BACKGROUND

The Arts and Culture Support Service acknowledges that the arts require an investment of public sector funds to remain accessible to the region's audiences and participants. The Operating Grant program meets this need by enabling long-term planning by arts organizations through stable funding. Through an investment in arts organizations and their activities, the CRD contributes to the development of healthy, diverse, and vibrant communities.

As per Bylaw No. 2973, the Arts Advisory Council (AAC) is responsible for adjudicating funding programs for the Arts & Culture Support Service. Section 5 of the Bylaw states: "The Council shall act as an arm's length adjudicating body for the Arts Development Funding Programs¹." The AAC fulfills this role through its adjudication committees, which are composed of its members and, if necessary, external appointees bringing perspectives or expertise needed for an adjudication.

On November 26, 2022, the adjudication committee met to evaluate 23 applications received at the September deadline for 2023 Annual Operating Grants. Twenty-one applications were from previous recipients and two were from new applicants who met eligibility requirements, including successfully completing at least one Project Grant.

The Operating Grant adjudication committee reviews and assesses applications based on three broad assessment categories: Artistic Contribution & Significance, Organizational Capacity & Governance, and Community Impact & Involvement. The committee provides scores for these categories for each application and conducts a comparative analysis to determine which applicants are high-performing or have areas of concern. The applications are reviewed according to published program guidelines as well as the Arts & Culture Support Service's establishing purpose of providing assistance benefiting the community.

Unsatisfactory year to year performance is tracked by way of the Notice of Significant Concern (NOSC) policy. A NOSC is issued when shortfalls are noted in one or more areas of any of the three assessment categories noted above. A detailed written notice is given to organizations, which are required to address and report on the amelioration of issues in subsequent applications. If an applicant does not adequately address the concerns, funding may be reduced or conditions may be attached to future program eligibility. This year's adjudication identified isolated issues; however, unlike in previous years no NOSCs were needed.

¹ The Arts & Culture Support Service was originally known as the Arts Development Service.

Modifications to the Operating Grant program guidelines and application forms were made in accordance with Phase 2 of the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) Implementation Framework, as approved by the Arts Commission on May 25, 2022. The most noticeable results of these modifications in adjudication were increased visibility on the applicant's approach to EDI in each of the three assessment categories through new questions and that robust responses from applicants on their approach to EDI positively affected the ranking of those applications.

One of the principles the adjudication committee applies in making its Operating Grant recommendations is that consistent performance year to year justifies, at minimum, funding equal to the previous year. Overall, applicants demonstrated resilient performance in operations and programming. However, regardless of merit, incremental increases to funding this year could not be supported. Based on the direction from the Arts Commission on September 28, 2022, the Arts & Culture Support Service is prioritizing new funding in the granting budget for new, high-performing applicants to Operating Grants and for project-based granting programs (Equity, Incubator, IDEA, and Project Grants).

Recommendations

All twenty-one applicants that received Operating Grant funding in the previous year were assessed above the satisfactory level and warranted application of the principle that consistent performance merited consistent funding. These organizations are therefore recommended for a level of Operating Grant funding equal to the previous year.

Of the two new applicants, the Victoria BC Ska & Reggae Society is recommended for Operating Grant funding at the full level of their request of \$25,000. This application scored highly in all three assessment categories and had a combined average score in the top quartile of all applicants. This organization has demonstrated a long track record of presenting culturally diverse musical performances in the region, empowering youth, and activating the local music community with a mandate to support arts and culture inspired by Jamaican and Caribbean cultural heritage.

The other new applicant, Blue Bridge Repertory Theatre Society, is not recommended for Operating Grant funding at this time. This application scored below 50% in both Organization Capacity & Governance and Community Impact & Involvement. At the time of application, the founding Artistic Director of this organization had left. While Blue Bridge had initiated a search for a new Artistic Director, the future artistic vision of the company was largely unknown in this application. Blue Bridge Repertory Theatre Society has been supported through Project Grants in recent years and is well positioned for support through the Projects Grants program in 2023.

ALTERNATIVES

Alternative 1

The Arts Advisory Council recommends to the Arts Commission:
That the 2023 Annual Operating Grant recommendations be approved as presented.

Alternative 2

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

IMPLICATIONS

Alignment with Existing Plans & Strategies

The 2023 Annual Operating Grant recommendations align with the Arts & Culture Support Service purpose of providing benefit to the community. The adjudication process was conducted through accountable processes, with assessment based on standard application and scoring processes. Adjudication is conducted by the AAC acting in their mandated role.

Financial Implications

At the Arts Commission meeting of January 26, 2022, ten Multi-year Operating Grants totaling \$1,716,420 were approved for the 2023 and 2024 funding years. Staff have reviewed interim reports for completeness and determined that no significant issues exist to preclude release of multi-year payments for 2023. Approval of the recommendations attached to this report will allocate the remaining \$589,850 from the 2023 Operating Grant budget.

The 2023 budget for arts granting programs had a total lift of \$93,440. Of that amount, \$25,000 was specifically allocated to doubling the budget for Equity Grants. Of the remaining \$68,400, The Operating Grants budget will be allocated an additional \$25,000 from the lift to support new, high-performing applicants (Victoria BC Ska & Reggae). Incubator, IDEA, and Project Grants will be allocated an additional \$43,440 from the lift towards increasing the applicant success rate and activating more arts projects, in accordance with budget directions provided by the Arts Commission on September 28, 2022.

Service Delivery Implications

The 2023 budget provided a nominal increase to Annual Operating Grant funding that, with approval of the 2023 recommendations, will result in stable funding for most applicants. Funding impacts the ability of organizations to deliver programming and to increase investment in high-performing recipients. In budget discussions for 2024, the Arts Commission may wish to consider allocating funding towards incremental lifts for existing clients.

CONCLUSION

Annual Operating Grants are intended to support organizations that provide benefit to the community, as assessed through a competitive adjudication process. The AAC makes recommendations for Operating Grants in accordance with their mandate as laid out in Bylaw 2973. These recommendations reflect the program goal of supporting high-performing organizations that provide benefits to the region through ongoing programming.

RECOMMENDATION

The Arts Advisory Council recommends to the Arts Commission:
That the 2023 Annual Operating Grant recommendations be approved as presented.

Submitted by: Chris Gilpin, MPA, Manager, Arts & Culture Support Service
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ATTACHMENT(S)

Appendix A: 2023 Annual Operating Grant Applicants & Recommendations

2023 Operating Grant Recommendations ANNUAL Applicants			2022 Project Grant	2022 OP Grant	2023 Request	2023 Recom'd
	Atomic Vaudeville			25,000	30,000	25,000
	Aventa Ensemble			22,930	25,000	22,930
New	Blue Bridge Repertory Theatre	7,500			25,000	0
	CineVic			23,000	25,000	23,000
	Early Music Society			12,000	21,000	12,000
	Greater Victoria Performing Arts Festival			8,000	20,000	8,000
	Greater Victoria Youth Orchestra			8,000	8,000	8,000
	Kaleidoscope Theatre			56,800	60,000	56,800
	MediaNet			19,000	25,000	19,000
	Open Space			87,930	120,000	87,930
	Ptarmigan Arts			19,400	22,000	19,400
	Puente Theatre			32,800	45,000	32,800
	Runnymede Enhancement Society (Deluge)			38,210	42,000	38,210
	SNAFU Dance Theatre			14,500	18,000	14,500
	Story Theatre			40,000	42,500	40,000
	Theatre Inconnu			27,500	30,000	27,500
	Theatre SKAM			40,800	100,000	40,800
	Victoria Arts Council			24,000	40,000	24,000
	Victoria Baroque Players			9,550	10,000	9,550
New	Victoria BC Ska & Reggae	11,000			25,000	25,000
	Victoria Children's Choir			13,930	13,930	13,930
	Victoria On Stage			21,500	50,000	21,500
	Victoria Shakespeare Society			20,000	23,000	20,000
			Totals:	\$564,850	\$820,430	\$589,850

**2023 Operating Grant Recommendations
Annual Applicant Summary**

	Org's jurisdiction	2022 Grant	2023 Request	2023 Grant Recommended
ATOMIC VAUDEVILLE	Victoria	25,000	30,000	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.

Britt Small: Co-Director (Leadership Team - Production and Management)

Kathleen Greenfield: Co-Director (Leadership Team - Management and Outreach)

Pedro M. Siqueira: Co-Director (Leadership Team - Production and Outreach)

Board: 5 members; Cam Culham, President

Comments on the Recommendation

This is one of 21 annual applicants that have received operating support in the previous year and were assessed above the satisfactory level, warranting the application of the principle that consistent performance merited consistent funding. This organization is recommended for a level of funding equal to the previous year.

**2023 Operating Grant Recommendations
Annual Applicant Summary**

	Org's jurisdiction	2022 Grant	2023 Request	2023 Grant Recommended
AVENTA ENSEMBLE	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 by Canadian and international composers.

Founding Artistic Director/General Manager: Bill Linwood

Board: 5 members, Emily Schudel, President

Comments on the Recommendation

This is one of 21 annual applicants that have received operating support in the previous year and were assessed above the satisfactory level, warranting the application of the principle that consistent performance merited consistent funding. This organization is recommended for a level of funding equal to the previous year.

**2023 Operating Grant Recommendations
Annual Applicant Summary**

	Org's jurisdiction	2022 Project Grant	2023 Request	2023 Grant Recommended
BLUE BRIDGE REPERTORY THEATRE	Victoria	7,500	25,000	0

Background/description

BBRT was formed in 2008 and in 2009 presented their inaugural 3 play summer season at the McPherson Playhouse.

In 2013 a patron purchased the Roxy Theatre and provided the venue to the company under very favourable conditions. BBRT moved operations and undertook renovations. Despite anticipated lower costs, the organization accumulated a large deficit and a large debt load. In 2017 BBRT entered into a Division 1 Proposal to deal with debt owed to its creditors to be repaid by April 2020.

The Roxy Theatre was sold in early 2022 and BBRT is leasing back the theatre with a three-year renewable lease.

In August 2022 founding Artistic Director, Brian Richmond, retired.

General Manager: Rebekah Johnson

Artistic Director: currently vacant

Board: 5 members, Evan Roberts, President

Comments on the Recommendation

This is one of two new applicants for operating funding. Out of the 23 applications in this intake (21 existing clients and 2 new applicants), this application had the lowest score. It was the only application to have an average score below 50% in the assessment categories of Organization Capacity & Governance and Community Impact & Involvement. At the time of application, the founding Artistic Director of this organization had left and Blue Bridge had initiated a search for a new one; however, without an Artistic Director, the future artistic vision of the company was largely unknown. Due to this situation, as well as scoring low in multiple assessment categories, the assessment committee decided not to recommend operating funding for Blue Bridge Theatre at this time.

**2023 Operating Grant Recommendations
Annual Applicant Summary**

	Org's jurisdiction	2022 Grant	2023 Request	2023 Grant Recommended
CINEVIC	Victoria	23,000	25,000	23,000

Background/description

CineVic began in 1991 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. As an artist-run society, independent filmmakers and media artists in the CRD can access programming, affordable equipment, professional development resources, and cinematic exhibition opportunities.

It is one of two funded organizations focussed on media arts, the other being MediaNet/FLUX Gallery.

Executive Director: David Geiss

Board: 7 members, Michael Korican, President

Comments on the Recommendation

This is one of 21 annual applicants that have received operating support in the previous year and were assessed above the satisfactory level, warranting the application of the principle that consistent performance merited consistent funding. This organization is recommended for a level of funding equal to the previous year.

**2023 Operating Grant Recommendations
Annual Applicant Summary**

	Org's jurisdiction	2022 Grant	2023 Request	2023 Grant Recommended
EARLY MUSIC SOCIETY	Victoria	12,000	21,000	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, as well as educational opportunities through pre-concert lectures.

Executive and Artistic Director: William Jamieson
Board: 8 members, Joanne Whitehead, President

Comments on the Recommendation

This is one of 21 annual applicants that have received operating support in the previous year and were assessed above the satisfactory level, warranting the application of the principle that consistent performance merited consistent funding. This organization is recommended for a level of funding equal to the previous year.

**2023 Operating Grant Recommendations
Annual Applicant Summary**

	Org's jurisdiction	2022 Grant	2023 Request	2023 Grant Recommended
GREATER VICTORIA PERFORMING ARTS	Saanich	8,000	20,000	8,000

Background/description

The Greater Victoria Performing Arts Festival Association (GVPAF) is a registered charitable society, incorporated in 1927. Their annual festival, held at various venues in the region, runs for 6 weeks from March to May. It is one of approximately 35 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. A selection of performers advance to public "highlights" concerts in various categories of skill, including provincial and national levels, and some receive awards (e.g. scholarships). Supported activities include administration and public concerts in the CRD.

Office Administrator (full time):
Board: 10 members, Bill Devey President

Comments on the Recommendation

This is one of 21 annual applicants that have received operating support in the previous year and were assessed above the satisfactory level, warranting the application of the principle that consistent performance merited consistent funding. This organization is recommended for a level of funding equal to the previous year.

**2023 Operating Grant Recommendations
Annual Applicant Summary**

	Org's jurisdiction	2022 Grant	2023 Request	2023 Grant Recommended
GREATER VICTORIA YOUTH ORCHESTRA	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 11 local professional musicians who coach and mentor the players.

Music Director: Yariv Aloni

Manager: Sheila Redhead

Board: 12 members, Sydney D. Bulman-Fleming, President

Comments on the Recommendation

This is one of 21 annual applicants that have received operating support in the previous year and were assessed above the satisfactory level, warranting the application of the principle that consistent performance merited consistent funding. This organization is recommended for a level of funding equal to the previous year.

**2023 Operating Grant Recommendations
Annual Applicant Summary**

	Org's jurisdiction	2022 Grant	2023 Request	2023 Grant Recommended
KALEIDOSCOPE THEATRE	Victoria	56,800	60,000	56,800

Background/description

Kaleidoscope Theatre presents a series of productions, creating and producing new work relevant to young people and their families. KYTP also runs a theatre school focussed on the the same demographic.

In June 2021, all operations were relocated into Victoria's downtown core from their previous location in Saanich due to the imminent redevelopment of the University Heights property. KTYP has secured a long-term lease of a stand-alone heritage building now called The Kaleidoscope Arts Centre.

Executive & Artistic Director: Pat Rundell

Board: 7 members, Bethany Wilson, President

Comments on the Recommendation

This is one of 21 annual applicants that have received operating support in the previous year and were assessed above the satisfactory level, warranting the application of the principle that consistent performance merited consistent funding. This organization is recommended for a level of funding equal to the previous year.

**2023 Operating Grant Recommendations
Annual Applicant Summary**

	Org's jurisdiction	2022 Grant	2023 Request	2023 Grant Recommended
MEDIANET	Victoria	19,000	25,000	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 provides equipment for use by members, including film and video cameras, sound equipment and lighting, as well as new media equipment and access to software for editing.

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.

Executive Director: Cat Lewis (as of April 2022)

Board: 5 members, Jason Lei , President

Comments on the Recommendation

This is one of 21 annual applicants that have received operating support in the previous year and were assessed above the satisfactory level, warranting the application of the principle that consistent performance merited consistent funding. This organization is recommended for a level of funding equal to the previous year.

**2023 Operating Grant Recommendations
Annual Applicant Summary**

	Org's jurisdiction	2022 Grant	2023 Request	2023 Grant Recommended
OPEN SPACE	Victoria	87,930	120,000	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.

Executive Director: Doug Jarvis

Board: 5 members, India Rael Young, President

Comments on the Recommendation

This is one of 21 annual applicants that have received operating support in the previous year and were assessed above the satisfactory level, warranting the application of the principle that consistent performance merited consistent funding. This organization is recommended for a level of funding equal to the previous year.

**2023 Operating Grant Recommendations
Annual Applicant Summary**

	Org's jurisdiction	2022 Grant	2023 Request	2023 Grant Recommended
PTARMIGAN ARTS	SGI	19,400	22,000	19,400

Background/description

In existence for almost 30 years, Ptarmigan is a charitable arts organization that delivers community arts programs in the Southern Gulf Islands and Greater Victoria. Programming includes concerts, festivals, an art gallery and studio tours to showcase and promote the work of established and emerging community artists, incorporating music, theatre, dance, storytelling, visual and media arts.

Executive Director: Lisa Fleming

Board: 9 members, Brent Marsden, Chair

Comments on the Recommendation

This is one of 21 annual applicants that have received operating support in the previous year and were assessed above the satisfactory level, warranting the application of the principle that consistent performance merited consistent funding. This organization is recommended for a level of funding equal to the previous year.

**2023 Operating Grant Recommendations
Annual Applicant Summary**

	Org's jurisdiction	2022 Grant	2023 Request	2023 Grant Recommended
PUENTE THEATRE	Victoria	32,800	45,000	32,800

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 (part time): Mercedes Batiz-Benet

General Manager (part time): Judd Palmer

Board: 11 members, Treena Stubel, President

Comments on the Recommendation

This is one of 21 annual applicants that have received operating support in the previous year and were assessed above the satisfactory level, warranting the application of the principle that consistent performance merited consistent funding. This organization is recommended for a level of funding equal to the previous year.

**2023 Operating Grant Recommendations
Annual Applicant Summary**

	Org's jurisdiction	2022 Grant	2023 Request	2023 Grant Recommended
RUNNYMEDE ENCHANCEMENT SOCIETY	Victoria	38,210	42,000	38,210

Background/description

The Runnymede Enhancement Society (RES) directs the 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 which became a major focus for future programming, along with FOREIGN MATTER.

Curator/Executive Director: Deborah de Boer
Board: 7 members, Todd Eacrett, President

Comments on the Recommendation

This is one of 21 annual applicants that have received operating support in the previous year and were assessed above the satisfactory level, warranting the application of the principle that consistent performance merited consistent funding. This organization is recommended for a level of funding equal to the previous year.

**2023 Operating Grant Recommendations
Annual Applicant Summary**

	Org's jurisdiction	2022 Grant	2023 Request	2023 Grant Recommended
SNAFU DANCE THEATRE	Victoria	14,500	18,000	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. Spectators are invited to have an active role in the action as it unfolds.

Co-Artistic Directors/Producers: Ingrid Hansen, Kathleen Greenfield
Board: 5 members, Mercedes Batiz Benet, President

Comments on the Recommendation

This is one of 21 annual applicants that have received operating support in the previous year and were assessed above the satisfactory level, warranting the application of the principle that consistent performance merited consistent funding. This organization is recommended for a level of funding equal to the previous year.

**2023 Operating Grant Recommendations
Annual Applicant Summary**

	Org's jurisdiction	2022 Grant	2023 Request	2023 Grant Recommended
STORY THEATRE	Victoria	40,000	42,500	40,000

Background/description

Story Theatre originated in 1980/81 as a Kaleidoscope Theatre summer program and is now a registered non-profit with a mission to inspire imagination and encourage literacy through live theatrical performance and storytelling.

The company performs narrative theatre for young people, primarily in schools in BC as well as other parts of Canada, with the goal of making impactful, artistic programming for the public that is educational, accessible, fun, and prioritizes disabled QT2BIPOC.

Artistic Producer: Erica Petty

Board: 5 members, Logan Swain, President

Comments on the Recommendation

This is one of 21 annual applicants that have received operating support in the previous year and were assessed above the satisfactory level, warranting the application of the principle that consistent performance merited consistent funding. This organization is recommended for a level of funding equal to the previous year.

**2023 Operating Grant Recommendations
Annual Applicant Summary**

	Org's jurisdiction	2022 Grant	2023 Request	2023 Grant Recommended
THEATRE INCONNU	Victoria	27,500	30,000	27,500

Background/description

Theatre Inconnu was co-founded in 1978. In spring 2004, Theatre Inconnu established itself as the resident theatre company at the Fernwood (Community Association) Little Hall producing 5-7 plays per season. They focus on local production often employing graduating and current students from UVic or the Canadian College Of Performing Arts.

Founding Artistic Director/General Manager: Clayton Jevne

Board: 6 members, Laurie Rubin, President

Comments on the Recommendation

This is one of 21 annual applicants that have received operating support in the previous year and were assessed above the satisfactory level, warranting the application of the principle that consistent performance merited consistent funding. This organization is recommended for a level of funding equal to the previous year.

**2023 Operating Grant Recommendations
Annual Applicant Summary**

	Org's jurisdiction	2022 Grant	2023 Request	2023 Grant Recommended
THEATRE SKAM	Victoria	40,800	100,000	40,800

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. Their Pop-Up Theatre, an 8 to 10 seat theatre house in a truck, can accommodate live performance or projections. The primary focus is presenting to Greater Victoria audiences using local artists, however they have also toured to Vancouver, the BC interior and Toronto.

Artistic and Managing Producer: Matthew Payne

General Manager: Anne Taylor

Board: 910 members, Sarah Webb, President

Comments on the Recommendation

This is one of 21 annual applicants that have received operating support in the previous year and were assessed above the satisfactory level, warranting the application of the principle that consistent performance merited consistent funding. This organization is recommended for a level of funding equal to the previous year.

**2023 Operating Grant Recommendations
Annual Applicant Summary**

	Org's jurisdiction	2022 Grant	2023 Request	2023 Grant Recommended
VICTORIA ARTS COUNCIL	Victoria	24,000	40,000	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). In 2018, the organization re-branded itself as the Victoria Arts Council and is now based in Victoria on Store Street. It has transitioned from a volunteer-run community group to a professional arts organization. The focus is on supporting the visual arts primarily, with consideration for sponsoring/endorsing performing and literary arts events when possible.

Executive Director: Kegan McFadden

Board: 7 members, Colette Baty, President

Comments on the Recommendation

This is one of 21 annual applicants that have received operating support in the previous year and were assessed above the satisfactory level, warranting the application of the principle that consistent performance merited consistent funding. This organization is recommended for a level of funding equal to the previous year.

**2023 Operating Grant Recommendations
Annual Applicant Summary**

	Org's jurisdiction	2022 Grant	2023 Request	2023 Grant Recommended
VICTORIA BAROQUE PLAYERS	Victoria	9,550	10,000	9,550

Background/description

The Victoria Baroque Music Society, founded in 2011, supports the activities of "Victoria Baroque" which presents high-quality, stylistic and exciting performances of baroque music, played on period instruments.

The organization produces four - five main stage performances as well as free outdoor summer concerts. 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.

Artistic Director/Orchestra Manager: Soile Stratkauskas
Board: 12 members, Ralph Huenemann, President

Comments on the Recommendation

This is one of 21 annual applicants that have received operating support in the previous year and were assessed above the satisfactory level, warranting the application of the principle that consistent performance merited consistent funding. This organization is recommended for a level of funding equal to the previous year.

**2023 Operating Grant Recommendations
Annual Applicant Summary**

	Org's jurisdiction	2022 Project Grant	2023 Request	2023 Grant Recommended
VICTORIA BC SKA & REGGAE	Victoria	11,000	25,000	25,000

Background/description

Victoria BC Ska Society was incorporated in 2003 and has presented Victoria's Ska & Reggae Festival for over 20 years. The festival features 40 bands from 7 – 9 different countries including regional and national talent. There is free programming and ticketed presentations at Ship Point as well as at smaller venues throughout Victoria.

The Society works to highlight musical and cultural connections to music that have been influenced by Jamaican rooted music and vice versa.

Artistic/Executive Director: Dane Roberts
Board: 8 members; Jesse Horwood, President

Comments on the Recommendation

This is one of two new applicants for operating funding. Out of the 23 applications in this intake (21 existing clients and 2 new applicants), this application had the third-highest combined average score. It had an average score in the top five in each of the assessment categories: Artistic Contribution & Significance, Organization Capacity & Governance, and Community Impact & Involvement. This organization fills a clear and distinct niche with the regional arts ecosystem and enhances the cultural diversity of the region. The assessment committee was unanimous in its recommendation to provide operating funding to Victoria BC Ska & Reggae Society in the full amount of its request.

**2023 Operating Grant Recommendations
Annual Applicant Summary**

	Org's jurisdiction	2022 Grant	2023 Request	2023 Grant Recommended
VICTORIA CHILDREN'S CHOIR	Victoria	13,930	13,930	13,930

Background/description

Victoria Children's Choir provides various choral training and performance opportunities for children between the ages of 7 through 20. VCC strives for choral excellence by pursuing a challenging, distinctive and inspiring multicultural repertoire, celebrating the best of Canadian music and original choral repertoire. Choirs perform locally, nationally and internationally including collaborations with the Victoria Symphony and Pacific Opera Victoria.

Artistic Director: David Stratkauskas
Executive Director: Carla Tadla
Board: 8 members; Catherine Fouracre, President

Comments on the Recommendation

This is one of 21 annual applicants that have received operating support in the previous year and were assessed above the satisfactory level, warranting the application of the principle that consistent performance merited consistent funding. This organization is recommended for a level of funding equal to the previous year.

**2023 Operating Grant Recommendations
Annual Applicant Summary**

	Org's jurisdiction	2022 Grant	2023 Request	2023 Grant Recommended
VICTORIA ON STAGE	Esquimal	21,500	50,000	21,500

Background/description

VOS is a community-based, and until recently an all 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 (part time): Dan Comeau
Board: 9 members, Suzan Pyke, President

Comments on the Recommendation

This is one of 21 annual applicants that have received operating support in the previous year and were assessed above the satisfactory level, warranting the application of the principle that consistent performance merited consistent funding. This organization is recommended for a level of funding equal to the previous year.

**2023 Operating Grant Recommendations
Annual Applicant Summary**

	Org's jurisdiction	2022 Grant	2023 Request	2023 Grant Recommended
VICTORIA SHAKESPEARE SOCIETY	Victoria	20,000	23,000	20,000

Background/description

VSS 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. Since 2007 the Society has presented 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

General Manager: Candace Woodland

Board: 4 members, Alison Balabuch, President

Advisory Board: 4 members

Comments on the Recommendation

This is one of 21 annual applicants that have received operating support in the previous year and were assessed above the satisfactory level, warranting the application of the principle that consistent performance merited consistent funding. This organization is recommended for a level of funding equal to the previous year.