



Making a difference...together

Additional Circulation: C. Gilpin T. Robbins N. Chan R. Lachance A. Gibbs J. Verano S. Donaldson
---

## ARTS COMMISSION

Notice of Meeting on **Wednesday, January 24, 2024, at 4:00 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	

Delegations will have the option to participate in-person or electronically. Please complete the online application at [www.crd.bc.ca/address](http://www.crd.bc.ca/address), no later than 4:30 pm two days before the meeting.

### AGENDA

1. Territorial Acknowledgement
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Adoption of Minutes of November 22, 2023

**Recommendation:** That the November 22, 2023, minutes of the Arts Commission be adopted.

4. Chair's Remarks
5. Presentations/Delegations - none
6. Commission Business
  - 6.1. Arts Advisory Council Update
    - 6.1.1. Arts Advisory Council Chair's Report (verbal)
    - 6.1.2. Arts Advisory Council Minutes for information – January 9, 2024
    - 6.1.3. Arts Advisory Council *Activities by Council Summary*, January 9, 2024
  - 6.2. Manager's Report (verbal)
    - 6.2.1 Outreach Report (attached)
  - 6.3. 2024 Annual Operating Grant Recommendations

**Recommendation:** The Arts Advisory Council recommends to the Arts Commission:  
That the 2024 Annual Operating Grant recommendations be approved as presented.

**Attachments:**

Staff Report: Review of Arts & Culture 2024 Annual Operating Grant Recommendations  
Appendix A: 2024 Annual Operating Grant Applicants & Recommendations

- 6.4 Joint meeting of the Arts Commission and Arts Advisory Council

**Recommendation:** That the Arts Advisory Council is invited to the May 2024 Arts Commission meeting to review the 2023 Annual Impact Report and, moving forward, is also invited on an annual basis to the Arts Commission meeting in which this report is presented.

---

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

**Attachment:**

Staff Report: Annual Joint Meeting of Arts Commission and Arts Advisory Council

7. New Business
8. Correspondence – none
9. Adjournment

*Next Regular Meeting: February 28, 2024*



Making a difference...together

**Minutes of a Meeting of the ARTS COMMISSION**  
**Held November 22, 2023, in Room 488, 625 Fisgard St., Victoria, BC**

---

EP = Electronic Participation

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

**Staff:** C. Gilpin, Manager, Arts & Culture Service; A. Gibbs, Community Outreach Coordinator, H. Heywood, Administrative Assistant (recorder), N. Chan, CFO

**Also present:** J. Verano, Arts Advisory Council Chair (EP)

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

**1 Territorial Acknowledgement**

Chair Alto provided the following Territorial Acknowledgement:

As usual we start our time together with an acknowledgment of the remarkable presence, principals, values, opportunities, and the privilege of doing our work together here on the territories of the Lekwungen people. Our friends in Songhees nation and the Esquimalt nation continue to be generous in their time and wisdom and to help us learn and work with them. And I think it's probably something now becoming a custom for us to acknowledge that, but I always urge folks to move beyond that custom and to find something meaningful in each day that makes those words somehow personal to you and brings home the value of these opportunities in some fashion, to your lives and your family and the work that you do here. So as always, I urge that to each of you in whatever way makes sense and when you do to open your heart, your mind, and all your senses. And to open your arms and say Hay'sxw'qa si'em, for all our friends and all of our family and all of our ambitions.

**2 Approval of Agenda**

**MOVED by Member Roessingh, SECONDED by Member Plant**

**That the agenda be approved as amended with the following item added to New Business:**

**8.1 West Shore Committee update**

**CARRIED**

**3 Adoption of Minutes**

**MOVED by Member Cavens, SECONDED by Member Lajeunesse,**

**That the minutes of the September 27, 2023, Arts Commission meeting be adopted as circulated.**

**CARRIED**

**4 Chair's Remarks – None**

**5 Presentations/Delegations – None**

*4:05pm J. Verano joined the meeting*

**6. Commission Business**

**6.1 Arts Advisory Council Update (no meeting in October)**

**6.1.1 Arts Advisory Council (AAC) Chair's Report (verbal)**

Arts Advisory Council Chair Verano noted there was no October meeting of the AAC due to

## **Arts Commission Minutes – November 22, 2023**

---

the work of reviewing annual operating grant applications. The grant plenary meeting took place on November 18<sup>th</sup> and recommendations will be presented to the Arts Commission in January by the AAC Funding Chair.

**The Arts Advisory Council Chair's Report was received for information.**

### **6.2 Manager's Report (verbal)**

C. Gilpin reported on the following:

- The operating grant adjudication is complete and as mentioned by AAC Chair Verano, recommendations will be presented to the Arts Commission in January.
- The project grant intake for January was launched yesterday and the application deadline is January 18<sup>th</sup>. A video of last year's info session has been posted to the CRD website and staff will host another online information session in early January for potential applicants. The updated guidelines have a clear notice reflecting the Arts Commission's decision that organizations not successful at the January intake may apply again in April. January Project Grant recommendations will come forward to the Arts Commission in March.
- On October 10<sup>th</sup>, Chair Alto and C. Gilpin made a presentation to the City of Colwood's Mayor and Council. The Council was very engaged with the presentation; however, there was no indication they will join the Service at this time. Colwood's Mayor said this decision will be reviewed on an annual basis.
- On November 20<sup>th</sup>, Langford Council approved their first-ever strategic plan which includes the production of a first-ever Arts & Culture plan, scheduled to be presented to Langford Council in early 2025.

#### **6.2.1 Outreach Report (attached)**

C. Gilpin highlighted the following from the report:

- The new Strategic Plan was posted online and C. Gilpin was invited to be interviewed about the Plan on CBC's All Points West. This provided a great opportunity to raise awareness about the Arts Service.
- A press release was issued about 2023 grant recipients which generated a positive article in the Times Colonist.
- Friday, November 24<sup>th</sup> is the Greater Victoria Regional Arts Awards event which will include the presentation of the \$5,000 Regional Impact Award, supported by a strategic initiative grant through the Arts Commission.

C. Gilpin advised that support of the Regional Impact Award and the event is considered on an annual basis by the Arts Commission if a request for funding is received from the Greater Victoria ProArt Alliance. Member Smart will attend the 2023 event to make the award presentation on behalf of the Arts Commission.

#### **4:14pm C. Smart joined the meeting**

Members discussed Colwood Council's response to the Arts Service presentation. It was noted that during the presentation C. Gilpin highlighted the ramifications of Colwood not participating in the Arts Service in relation to events that could not be funded by the Arts Service to take place at the Dogwood Auditorium.

Staff confirmed that follow-up letters were sent to both Langford and Colwood Councils following the Arts & Culture presentations which included the timeline for joining the Service.

**The Manager’s and Outreach reports were received for information.**

**6.3 Implementation Plan**

C. Gilpin referred to the Arts & Culture Strategic Plan which includes 10 goals and 17 Initiatives, to be completed over the next four years. He provided an overview of the implementation summary of goals and initiatives (Appendix A), and the proposed implementation timeline (Appendix B) highlighting activities in 2024. The implementation plan will be updated annually in consultation with the Arts Commission. Delivery of the five annual grant programs are part of the regular operations of the Service and are not included in the implementation plan.

**Moved by Member Lemon, SECONDED by Member Roessingh,  
That the Implementation Plan for the 2024-27 Strategic Plan of the Arts & Culture Support Service be approved as presented.**

**CARRIED**

Members discussed next steps for achieving the goals as outlined in the implementation plan, including roles and responsibilities for staff and Commission members.

It was noted the time frame as presented could change depending on circumstances, if new opportunities arise or if some activities require more time.

**Motion arising**

**MOVED by Member Plant, SECONDED by Chair Alto,  
That staff report back with more information about how Goal #1 from the Strategic Plan could be achieved. This report can include information on how both staff and elected Commission members can work towards this goal.**

**MOVED by Chair Alto, SECONDED by Member Cavens, That the main motion be amended by removing the words “Goal #1 from”.**

Members discussed the goals and expectations of staff.

The question was called on the amended motion.

**DEFEATED**

**Opposed: Brent, Cavens, Epp, Lajeunesse, Lemon, Plant,  
Roessingh, Smart**

The question was called on the main motion.

**MOVED by Member Plant, SECONDED by Chair Alto,  
That staff report back with more information about how Goal #1 from the Strategic Plan could be achieved. This report can include information on how both staff and elected Commission members can work towards this goal.**

**CARRIED**

It was noted that staff will report back to the Commission at the March meeting.

**7. Joint Meeting of the Arts Commission and Arts Advisory Council**

Members discussed possible topics for a joint meeting with the Arts Advisory Council. Staff will consult with the Arts Advisory Council at their January meeting and provide recommendations in a short report to the Commission in either February or March.

**MOVED by Member Plant, SECONDED by Chair Alto,**

**That staff report back to the Commission on the advisability of an annual joint meeting with the Arts Advisory Council.**

**CARRIED**

*4:51pm Member Plant left the meeting*

**7. New Business**

**7.1 West Shore Arts & Culture Facility Committee update**

Member Roessingh provided an update regarding the Juan de Fuca Performing Arts Society. The Society has formed an intermunicipal committee that includes all West Shore municipalities. Members Epp, Lemon, and Roessingh are participating on the committee which is working towards development of a West Shore Arts & Culture Centre.

**8. Correspondence - None**

**9. Motion to Close the meeting**

**MOVED by Member Cavens, SECONDED by Member Lajeunesse,**

- 1. 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.**
- 2. That Joanna Verano, Chair, Arts Advisory Council, be allowed into the closed portion of the meeting.**

**CARRIED**

**The Commission moved to the closed session at 4:54 p.m.**

**The Commission rose from the closed session at 5:00 p.m. with the following report:**

That Mandart Chan, Eli Mushumanski, and Jill Smillie each be appointed to the Arts Advisory Council for a term of one year ending on December 31, 2024, and,

**Arts Commission Minutes – November 22, 2023**

---

That Joanna Verano and Ari Hershberg each be re-appointed to the Arts Advisory Council for a term of two years ending on December 31, 2025.

**10. Adjournment**

**MOVED by Member Lajeunesse, SECONDED by Member Brent,  
That the meeting be adjourned at 5:01 pm.**

**CARRIED**

---

CHAIR

---

RECORDER



Making a difference...together

## ARTS ADVISORY COUNCIL

### Minutes of a Meeting of the CRD Arts Advisory Council

Tuesday, January 9, 2024 at 5:00 – 6:00 pm

Via Video Conference

**AAC Members:** M. Chan, R. Ditor, S. Donaldson, R. Gale, W. Greaves, , A. Hershberg,  
E. Mushumanski, S. Reid, J. Smillie, J. Verano

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

**Regrets:** C. Caravaca, C. Haska

---

The meeting was called to order at 5:04pm

#### 1. Territorial Acknowledgement

C. Gilpin gave a territorial acknowledgement.

*Arri Hershberg joined the meeting at 5:04pm*

#### 2. Welcome new members

C. Gilpin welcomed the new members. All members provided a brief introduction.

#### 3. Approval of Agenda

**MOVED** by S. Donaldson, **SECONDED** by J. Verano, to approve the agenda as circulated.

**CARRIED**

#### 4. Elections:

##### 4.1 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 who accepted the nomination.

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

##### 4.2 Nominations and election of Vice Chair

Chair Verano called for nominations for Vice-Chair of the CRD Arts Advisory Council (AAC).

J. Verano nominated S. Reid who accepted the nomination.

Chair Verano called for a second and third time and there being no other nominations, S. Reid was acclaimed as Vice-Chair.

##### 4.3 Nominations and election of Funding Chair

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

S. Reid nominated S. Donaldson who accepted the nomination.

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



*M. Chan joined the meeting at 5:09pm and provided a brief introduction*

## **5. Minutes:**

### **5.1 Adoption: 2023/09/12 Arts Advisory Council (AAC)**

**MOVED** by R. Gale, **SECONDED** by S. Donaldson, that the 2023/09/12 minutes of the Arts Advisory Council be approved as presented.

**CARRIED**

### **5.2 Arts Commission (AC) Minutes of 2023/09/27** - received for information

## **6. Chair's Report**

Chair Verano made the following remarks:

- AAC members were thanked for their work on the Operating grant adjudication and at the Plenary. The recommendations will be reviewed tonight and presented at the January Arts Commission meeting.
- C. Gilpin and Mayor Alto made a presentation to the Colwood Mayor & Council in the fall. C. Gilpin was asked to comment on this in his report.
- At the November Arts Commission meeting, the project grant policy change was approved as recommended by the AAC. This means applicants that are unsuccessful at the January intake may apply again in April with the same or a different project. The AC has asked staff to report on the results of this policy change.
- Please review the grant adjudication schedule provided and advise staff as soon as possible if there are any date conflicts.
- A joint meeting with the AC will be discussed later in the agenda.

## **7. Manager's Report**

C. Gilpin commented on the following:

- The Project Grant intake has launched with an application deadline on January 18<sup>th</sup>, and there will be an online information session Thursday, Jan. 11<sup>th</sup> at noon for potential project grant applicants. Several registrations to date.
- The CRD Board Staff has directed staff to report on restarting the Performing Arts Facilities Select Committee which existed in the previous term.
- Chair Alto and staff made a presentation to Colwood. Staff were able to point out the value of joining the Arts Service, including a point about the Dogwood Auditorium which applicants to CRD Arts grants cannot use as a performance facility as it's located in Colwood, a non-participating jurisdiction.

## **8. 2024 Annual Operating Grant Recommendations**

Funding Chair S. Donaldson provided an overview of the Operating grant recommendations highlighting the new organizations, NOSC notices, and increases.

**MOVED** by S. Reid , **SECONDED** by R. Ditor, That the Arts Advisory Council recommends to the Arts Commission: That the 2024 Annual Operating Grant recommendations be approved as presented.

**CARRIED**

Chair Verano thank S. Donaldson for her work chairing the Operating grant plenary.

## **9. Grant Adjudication Schedule 2024**

C. Gilpin ask members to check the dates as proposed in the schedule and add to your calendars as needed. Staff will survey committee members to determine exact dates for adjudication meetings. The January project grant adjudication date will be March 4<sup>th</sup>.

It was noted that more time has been provided for assessing the Operating grant applications as there will be both annual and multi-year applications submitted in 2024.

**10. Joint Meeting of the AC/AAC**

The AC passed a motion asking staff to report back on the advisability of an annual meeting between the AC and AAC. The discussion focused on the AAC attending the AC meeting in May when staff present the annual Impact Report. This report compiles the Services' accomplishments from the previous year and would provide discussion points for ideas that could be considered in budget discussions.

The consensus is for staff to move ahead with this proposal to the AC.

**11. ABCs (Activity By Council Summary)**

Received for information.

**12. Correspondence - none**

**13. New Business - none**

**14. Adjournment**

**MOVED** by R. Ditor , **SECONDED** by W. Greaves,  
that the meeting be adjourned at 5:58 pm.

**CARRIED**

### Arts Advisory Council Meeting – Tuesday, January 9, 2024 - ABCs

AAC members recently attended the following events in the region:

**Atomic Vaudeville:** Reach Out and Touch Someone; The Batshits, staged at Blue Bridge Theatre; Halloween Never Dies

**Ballet Victoria:** The Gift of the Nutcracker

**Belfry Theatre:** I Think I'm Fallin': The Songs of Joni Mitchell; Yaga

**Bema Productions** (Congregation Emanuel) - Stranger in this Land

**Blue Bridge Theatre:** Misery

**Canadian College of Performing Arts-** Lenin's Embalmers

**Farquhar Auditorium:** Jazz at Lincoln Centre with Wynton Marsalis; Josie and Grace

**Foggy Isle Film Festival**

**Intrepid Theatre:** No Worries if Not; Decoxification; what's wrong with J McLaughlin

**Kaleidoscope:** The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe

**McPherson Playhouse:** Manhattan Transfer; Jeremy Dutcher, Motewolonuwok; Spellbound: an occasion of magic (and books)

**Na'tsa'maht Gathering Place:** Orange Shirt Day

**Planet Earth Poetry:** reading by Eve Joseph, Patricia Young & Sharon McCartney at Russell Books

**ProArt Alliance Regional Arts Awards**

**Royal Bay Commons,** Colwood: The Sum of Our Parts group exhibition: Samantha Dickie, Laura Dutton, Roberta Pyx Sutherland

**Royal Theatre:** Dirty Dancing in Concert

**St. Paul's Church,** Esquimalt: Cascadia Strings, The Ysaÿe Project- six violin sonatas Eugene Ysaÿe

**Tamarack Theatre:** confidential musical theatre project

**Theatre Inconnu:** Pepe; stupid f\*\*king bird

**UVIC First People's House:** sxwí?e ɪm To Tell A Story Indigenous Writers & Storytellers Series - Jeanette Armstrong & Kevin Phillip Paul reading at

**Victoria Festival of Authors:** Dark Words & Open Water: Jennifer Manuel, Darrel McLeod, Alissa York, at Langham Court

**Victoria Book Prizes** Gala

**Victoria Film Festival:** Sing Along Sound of Music

**Victoria International Marina:** Raising of a new Welcome Pole

**Wonderheads:** A Christmas Carol, at Belfry Theatre

#### **Out of Town events**

##### **Qualicum Beach:**

Mid-Island Potters, Art of the Fire group exhibition and sale

##### **North Vancouver:**

Polygon Gallery -Jeremy Shaw, Phase Shifting Index solo exhibition

##### **Vancouver:**

Pale Fire Projects-Tania Williard, Sensitized solo exhibition

Chinese Canadian Museum- Paper Trail temporary exhibition

Audain Gallery, SFU Woodward's - Autofictional, SFU M.F.A. graduating class group exhibition

##### **Seattle:**

Nordic Heritage Museum- Arctic Highways:12 Indigenous Circumpolar Artists

ACT - Cambodian Rock Band; Wing Luke Museum

## OUTREACH REPORT

### Arts Commission Meeting, January 24, 2024

---

The following is a short summary of the outreach activities undertaken since the last Arts Commission meeting on November 22<sup>nd</sup>:

#### **November 2023 E-Newsletter**

- Included: Strategic Plan, Project Grant launch & info sessions, ProArt Alliance 2023 Greater Victoria Regional Arts Awards, 2023 grant recipients list
- Sent out to our 828 subscribers
- 488 emails opened (~59 % open rate)
- 98 link clicks (~12% click rate)

#### **2024 Project Grant Intake**

- Updates published on webpage
- Posts shared on X, Facebook & Instagram; featured in newsletter
- Print ads run in 9 publications across the CRD
- Digital ad reached 2,100+ users and generated 85+ link clicks

#### **2024 Project Grant Information Session**

- Published on CRD event calendar
- Posts shared on Facebook, Instagram & X; registration linked in newsletter
- 13/26 registrants attended (from Oak Bay, Central Saanich, Saanich, Sooke, & Victoria)

#### **IN PROGRESS:**

- 2024-27 Communications & Outreach Plan - to be brought to the AC in early spring
- 2023 Impact Report - to be brought to AC in late spring

**REPORT TO ARTS ADVISORY COUNCIL  
MEETING OF SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 01, 2024**

---

**SUBJECT**     **Review of Arts & Culture 2024 Annual Operating Grant Recommendations**

**ISSUE SUMMARY**

The 2024 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 Programs<sup>1</sup>.” 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 18, 2023, the adjudication committee met to evaluate 25 applications received at the September deadline for 2024 Annual Operating Grants. Twenty-two applications were from previous recipients and three 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 to benefit 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. There were no pre-existing NOSCs from previous years.

---

<sup>1</sup> The Arts & Culture Support Service was originally known as the Arts Development Service.

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.

### Recommendations

Four applicants that received Annual Operating Grant funding in the previous year were assessed in the top of this cohort (Kaleidoscope Theatre, Puente Theatre, CineVic, and Victoria Arts Council). Their exceptional performance merited an increase in funding. These organizations are therefore recommended for a level of Operating Grant funding higher to the previous year (details of amounts in Appendix A).

Fifteen applicants that received Annual Operating Grant funding in the previous year were assessed at or 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.

Three applicants that received Annual Operating Grant funding in the previous year were assessed as having areas of concern. These organizations (Deluge Contemporary Art, Greater Victoria Performing Arts Festival, and Victoria On Stage) scored below average in at least one of the assessment categories (details in Appendix A). For each of these organizations, the recommended level of funding is equal to the previous year; however, a NOSC will be issued with areas of concern to be addressed. There will also be an offer for a phone conversation with the Arts Manager to convey feedback from the adjudication discussion for additional context.

Of the three new applicants, two organizations scored among the top cohort (Impulse Theatre and Wonderheads Theatre). Both high-performing organizations are recommended to receive their first Annual Operating Grant. Both applications scored highly in all three assessment categories and had a combined average score in the top quartile of all applicants.

The other new applicant, Blue Bridge Repertory Theatre Society, is not recommended for Annual Operating Grant funding at this time. This application had the lowest scores in all three assessment categories. Blue Bridge Repertory Theatre Society has been supported through Project Grants in recent years.

### **ALTERNATIVES**

#### *Alternative 1*

The Arts Advisory Council recommends to the Arts Commission:  
That the 2024 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 2024 Annual Operating Grant recommendations align with the Arts & Culture Support Service

purpose of providing benefit to the community. The adjudication was conducted through accountable processes with assessment based on application and scoring processes that are shared with applicants through the program guidelines and information sessions. 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 2024. Approval of the recommendations attached to this report will allocate the remaining \$643,943 from the 2024 Operating Grant budget.

*Service Delivery Implications*

The 2024 budget provided an increase to Annual Operating Grant funding that, with approval of the 2024 recommendations, will result in stable funding for most applicants with four receiving increased funding and two new applicants added as annual operating 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 2024 Annual Operating Grant recommendations be approved as presented.

Submitted by: Chris Gilpin, MPA, Manager, Arts & Culture Support Service
--

**ATTACHMENT(S)**

Appendix A: 2024 Annual Operating Grant Applicants & Recommendations

# Item 6.3 - Appendix A

## 2024 Operating Grant Recommendations ANNUAL Applicants

	2023 Project Grant	2023 OP Grant	2024 Request	2024 Recom'd
Atomic Vaudeville		25,000	35,000	25,000
Aventa Ensemble		22,930	22,930	22,930
Blue Bridge Theatre	9,600		40,000	0
CineVic		23,000	30,000	25,000
Deluge Contemporary Art		38,210	42,000	38,210
Early Music Society		12,000	17,000	12,000
Greater Victoria Performing Arts Festival		8,000	20,000	8,000
Greater Victoria Youth Orchestra		8,000	8,000	8,000
Impulse Theatre	10,000		15,000	12,000
Kaleidoscope Theatre		56,800	65,000	59,500
MediaNet		19,000	25,000	19,000
Open Space		87,930	120,000	87,930
Ptarmigan Arts		19,400	24,000	19,400
Puente Theatre		32,800	43,200	34,500
SNAFU Dance Theatre		14,500	18,500	14,500
Story Theatre		40,000	42,500	40,000
Theatre Inconnu		27,500	30,000	27,500
Theatre SKAM		40,800	50,000	40,800
Victoria Arts Council		24,000	50,000	37,600
Victoria Baroque Players		9,550	10,000	9,550
Victoria BC Ska & Reggae		25,000	27,500	25,000
Victoria Children's Choir		13,930	13,930	13,930
Victoria On Stage		21,500	30,000	21,500
Victoria Shakespeare Society		20,000	25,000	20,000
Wonderheads Theatre	6,650		28,000	22,000
	<b>Totals:</b>	<b>\$589,850</b>	<b>\$832,560</b>	<b>\$643,850</b>



**2024 Operating Grant Recommendations  
Applicant Summary**

	Org's jurisdiction	2023 Project Grant	2023 Grant	2024 Request	2024 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.

Britt Small: Co-Director (Leadership Team - Production and Admin)  
Kathleen Greenfield: Co-Director (Leadership Team - Admin and Community)  
Pedro M. Siqueira: Co-Director (Leadership Team - Production and Community)

Board: 5 members, Cam Culham, President

**Comments on the Recommendation**

This is one of 22 annual applicants that have received operating support in the previous year. The organization was assessed above a satisfactory level in the three assessment areas of Artistic Contribution and Significance, Organizational Capacity and Governance, and Community Impact and Involvement. Their scores resulted in a rank in the middle third of annual applicants and warranted application of the principle that consistent performance merits consistent funding. This organization is recommended for a level of funding equal to the previous year.

**2024 Operating Grant Recommendations  
Applicant Summary**

	Org's jurisdiction	2023 Project Grant	2023 Grant	2024 Request	2024 Grant Recommended
<b>AVENTA ENSEMBLE</b>	Oak Bay		22,930	22,930	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: 6 members, Dale C. Stanley, President

**Comments on the Recommendation**

This is one of 22 annual applicants that have received operating support in the previous year. The organization was assessed above a satisfactory level in the three assessment areas of Artistic Contribution and Significance, Organizational Capacity and Governance, and Community Impact and Involvement. Their scores resulted in a rank in the middle third of annual applicants and warranted application of the principle that consistent performance merits consistent funding. This organization is recommended for a level of funding equal to the previous year.

**2024 Operating Grant Recommendations  
Applicant Summary**

	Org's jurisdiction	2023 Project Grant	2023 Grant	2024 Request	2024 Grant Recommended
<b>BLUE BRIDGE THEATRE</b>	Victoria	9,600		40,000	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.

General Manager: Rebekah Johnson  
Artistic Associate: Francis Matheu  
Artistic Committee: Michael Armstrong, Dr. Iris Bannerman  
Board: 5 members, Evan Roberts, President

**Comments on the Recommendation**

This is one of three new applicants applying for operating funding. The organization was assessed below a satisfactory level in Artistic Contribution and Significance, Organizational Capacity and Governance, and Community Impact and Involvement. Out of the 25 applications in this intake (22 existing clients and 3 new applicants), this application had the lowest score. The organization is not recommended for operating funding at this time.

**2024 Operating Grant Recommendations  
Applicant Summary**

	Org's jurisdiction	2023 Project Grant	2023 Grant	2024 Request	2024 Grant Recommended
<b>CINEVIC</b>	Victoria		23,000	30,000	25,000

**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, Grady Lawlor, President

**Comments on the Recommendation**

This is one of 22 annual applicants that have received operating support in the previous year. The organization was assessed above a satisfactory level in the three assessment areas of Artistic Contribution and Significance, Organizational Capacity and Governance, and Community Impact and Involvement. Additionally, their scores resulted in a rank in the top third of annual applicants and, due to this high performance, is recommended for a funding lift of \$2,000 over the level of funding in the previous year.

**2024 Operating Grant Recommendations  
Applicant Summary**

	Org's jurisdiction	2023 Project Grant	2023 Grant	2024 Request	2024 Grant Recommended
<b>DELUGE CONTEMPORARY ART</b>	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 22 annual applicants that have received operating support in the previous year. The organization was assessed above a satisfactory level in Artistic Contribution and Significance, but below a satisfactory level in Organizational Capacity and Governance, and Community Impact and Involvement. Additionally, the scores for this application resulted in a rank in the bottom third of annual applicants. This organization is recommended for a level of funding equal to the previous year with the stipulation of a Notice of Significant Concern. This will require an additional report in next year's application detailing what actions have been taken to address the concerns.

**2024 Operating Grant Recommendations  
Applicant Summary**

	Org's jurisdiction	2023 Project Grant	2023 Grant	2024 Request	2024 Grant Recommended
<b>EARLY MUSIC SOCIETY</b>	Victoria		12,000	17,000	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: 10 members, Joanne Whitehead, President

**Comments on the Recommendation**

This is one of 22 annual applicants that have received operating support in the previous year. The organization was assessed above a satisfactory level in the three assessment areas of Artistic Contribution and Significance, Organizational Capacity and Governance, and Community Impact and Involvement. Their scores resulted in a rank in the middle third of annual applicants and warranted application of the principle that consistent performance merits consistent funding. This organization is recommended for a level of funding equal to the previous year.

**2024 Operating Grant Recommendations  
Applicant Summary**

	Org's jurisdiction	2023 Project Grant	2023 Grant	2024 Request	2024 Grant Recommended
<b>GREATER VICTORIA PERFORMING ARTS</b>	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: Alyssa Hanke  
Board: 10 members, Bill Devey President

**Comments on the Recommendation**

This is one of 22 annual applicants that have received operating support in the previous year. The organization was assessed at a satisfactory level in Artistic Contribution and Significance, but below a satisfactory level in Organizational Capacity and Governance, and Community Impact and Involvement. Additionally, the scores for this application resulted in a rank in the bottom third of annual applicants. This organization is recommended for a level of funding equal to the previous year with the stipulation of a Notice of Significant Concern. This will require an additional report in next year's application detailing what actions have been taken to address the concerns.

**2024 Operating Grant Recommendations  
Applicant Summary**

	Org's jurisdiction	2023 Project Grant	2023 Grant	2024 Request	2024 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 11 local professional musicians who coach and mentor the players.

Music Director: Yariv Aloni  
Manager: Sheila Redhead  
Board: 11 members, Sydney D. Bulman-Fleming, President

**Comments on the Recommendation**

This is one of 22 annual applicants that have received operating support in the previous year. The organization was assessed at or above a satisfactory level in the three assessment areas of Artistic Contribution and Significance, Organizational Capacity and Governance, and Community Impact and Involvement. Their scores resulted in a rank in the bottom third of annual applicants but did not require a Notice of Significant Concern at this time. This organization is recommended for a level of funding equal to the previous year.

**2024 Operating Grant Recommendations  
Applicant Summary**

	Org's jurisdiction	2023 Project Grant	2023 Grant	2024 Request	2024 Grant Recommended
<b>IMPULSE THEATRE</b>	Victoria	10,000		15,000	12,000

**Background/description**

Impulse Theatre was founded in the summer of 2010 and became a registered not-for-profit in 2016. Andrew Barrett is the founding Artistic Producer.

Impulse has created over twenty new, highly visual and engaging works since inception and have brought work to upintheir's rEvolver Theatre Festival, the Belfry's Spark Festival, Intrepid's Winterlab, UnoFest, and YOU Show series, Theatre SKAM's SKAMPede, the Victoria and Vancouver Fringe Festivals, and the Firehall Arts Centre's BC Buds Festival.

Artistic Producer: Andrew Barrett  
Board, 6 members: Jackie Adamthwaite, President

**Comments on the Recommendation**

This is one of three new applicants for operating funding. The organization was assessed above a satisfactory level in Artistic Contribution and Significance, Organizational Capacity and Governance, and Community Impact and Involvement. Out of the 25 applications in this intake (22 existing clients and 3 new applicants), this application had the fourth highest score. The organization is recommended for operating funding at a level of \$12,000.

**2024 Operating Grant Recommendations  
Applicant Summary**

	Org's jurisdiction	2023 Project Grant	2023 Grant	2024 Request	2024 Grant Recommended
<b>KALEIDOSCOPE THEATRE</b>	Victoria		56,800	65,000	59,500

**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 to 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: 10 members, Bethany Wilson, President

**Comments on the Recommendation**

This is one of 22 annual applicants that have received operating support in the previous year. The organization was assessed above a satisfactory level in the three assessment areas of Artistic Contribution and Significance, Organizational Capacity and Governance, and Community Impact and Involvement. Additionally, their scores resulted in a rank in the top third of annual applicants and, due to this high performance, is recommended for a funding lift of \$2,700 over the level of funding in the previous year.

**2024 Operating Grant Recommendations  
Applicant Summary**

	Org's jurisdiction	2023 Project Grant	2023 Grant	2024 Request	2024 Grant Recommended
<b>MEDIANET</b>	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  
Board: 6 members, Jason Lei , President

**Comments on the Recommendation**

This is one of 22 annual applicants that have received operating support in the previous year. The organization was assessed above a satisfactory level in the three assessment areas of Artistic Contribution and Significance, Organizational Capacity and Governance, and Community Impact and Involvement. Their scores resulted in a rank in the middle third of annual applicants and warranted application of the principle that consistent performance merits consistent funding. This organization is recommended for a level of funding equal to the previous year.

**2024 Operating Grant Recommendations  
Applicant Summary**

	Org's jurisdiction	2023 Project Grant	2023 Grant	2024 Request	2024 Grant Recommended
<b>OPEN SPACE</b>	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: 7 members, India Rael Young, President

**Comments on the Recommendation**

This is one of 22 annual applicants that have received operating support in the previous year. The organization was assessed above a satisfactory level in the three assessment areas of Artistic Contribution and Significance, Organizational Capacity and Governance, and Community Impact and Involvement. Their scores resulted in a rank in the middle third of annual applicants and warranted application of the principle that consistent performance merits consistent funding. This organization is recommended for a level of funding equal to the previous year.

**2024 Operating Grant Recommendations  
Applicant Summary**

	Org's jurisdiction	2023 Project Grant	2023 Grant	2024 Request	2024 Grant Recommended
<b>PTARMIGAN ARTS</b>	SGI		19,400	24,000	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: 8 members, Brent Marsden, Chair

**Comments on the Recommendation**

This is one of 22 annual applicants that have received operating support in the previous year. The organization was assessed above a satisfactory level in the three assessment areas of Artistic Contribution and Significance, Organizational Capacity and Governance, and Community Impact and Involvement. Their scores resulted in a rank in the middle third of annual applicants and warranted application of the principle that consistent performance merits consistent funding. This organization is recommended for a level of funding equal to the previous year.

**2024 Operating Grant Recommendations  
Applicant Summary**

	Org's jurisdiction	2023 Project Grant	2023 Grant	2024 Request	2024 Grant Recommended
<b>PUENTE THEATRE</b>	Victoria		32,800	43,200	34,500

**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 22 annual applicants that have received operating support in the previous year. The organization was assessed above a satisfactory level in the three assessment areas of Artistic Contribution and Significance, Organizational Capacity and Governance, and Community Impact and Involvement. Additionally, their scores resulted in a rank in the top third of annual applicants and, due to this high performance, is recommended for a funding lift of \$1,700 over the level of funding in the previous year.

**2024 Operating Grant Recommendations  
Applicant Summary**

	Org's jurisdiction	2023 Project Grant	2023 Grant	2024 Request	2024 Grant Recommended
<b>SNAFU DANCE THEATRE</b>	Victoria		14,500	18,500	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: Ingrid Hansen, Kathleen Greenfield  
Board: 6 members, Mercedes Batiz Benet, President

**Comments on the Recommendation**

This is one of 22 annual applicants that have received operating support in the previous year. The organization was assessed above a satisfactory level in the three assessment areas of Artistic Contribution and Significance, Organizational Capacity and Governance, and Community Impact and Involvement. Their scores resulted in a rank in the top third of annual applicants. The assessment team also considered that SNAFU's projects are supported by additional CRD Arts grants through a high level of project funding to their close collaborator, William Head On Stage. Thus, this organization is recommended for a level of funding equal to the previous year.

**2024 Operating Grant Recommendations  
Applicant Summary**

	Org's jurisdiction	2023 Project Grant	2023 Grant	2024 Request	2024 Grant Recommended
<b>STORY THEATRE</b>	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: 4 members, Logan Swain, President

**Comments on the Recommendation**

This is one of 22 annual applicants that have received operating support in the previous year. The organization was assessed above a satisfactory level in the three assessment areas of Artistic Contribution and Significance, Organizational Capacity and Governance, and Community Impact and Involvement. Their scores resulted in a rank in the middle third of annual applicants and warranted application of the principle that consistent performance merits consistent funding. This organization is recommended for a level of funding equal to the previous year.



**2024 Operating Grant Recommendations  
Applicant Summary**

	Org's jurisdiction	2023 Project Grant	2023 Grant	2024 Request	2024 Grant Recommended
<b>THEATRE INCONNU</b>	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: 7 members, Laurie Rubin, President

**Comments on the Recommendation**

This is one of 22 annual applicants that have received operating support in the previous year. The organization was assessed at or above a satisfactory level in the three assessment areas of Artistic Contribution and Significance, Organizational Capacity and Governance, and Community Impact and Involvement. Their scores resulted in a rank in the bottom third of annual applicants but did not require a Notice of Significant Concern at this time. This organization is recommended for a level of funding equal to the previous year.

**2024 Operating Grant Recommendations  
Applicant Summary**

	Org's jurisdiction	2023 Project Grant	2023 Grant	2024 Request	2024 Grant Recommended
<b>THEATRE SKAM</b>	Victoria		40,800	50,000	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.

General Manager: Anne Taylor  
Board: 8 members, Sarah Webb, President

**Comments on the Recommendation**

This is one of 22 annual applicants that have received operating support in the previous year. The organization was assessed above a satisfactory level in the three assessment areas of Artistic Contribution and Significance, Organizational Capacity and Governance, and Community Impact and Involvement. Their scores resulted in a rank in the middle third of annual applicants and warranted application of the principle that consistent performance merits consistent funding. This organization is recommended for a level of funding equal to the previous year.

**2024 Operating Grant Recommendations  
Applicant Summary**

	Org's jurisdiction	2023 Project Grant	2023 Grant	2024 Request	2024 Grant Recommended
<b>VICTORIA ARTS COUNCIL</b>	Victoria		24,000	50,000	37,600

**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 22 annual applicants that have received operating support in the previous year. The organization was assessed above a satisfactory level in the three assessment areas of Artistic Contribution and Significance, Organizational Capacity and Governance, and Community Impact and Involvement. Their scores resulted in a rank in the top third of annual applicants and, due to this high performance, is recommended for a funding lift of \$13,600 over the level of funding in the previous year. The Victoria Arts Council also indicated that Creative Mornings has become a core element of their programming and that they would not approach CRD Arts for a separate grant for this initiative.

**2024 Operating Grant Recommendations  
Applicant Summary**

	Org's jurisdiction	2023 Project Grant	2023 Grant	2024 Request	2024 Grant Recommended
<b>VICTORIA BAROQUE PLAYERS</b>	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: 9 members, David Robertson, President

**Comments on the Recommendation**

This is one of 22 annual applicants that have received operating support in the previous year. The organization was assessed above a satisfactory level in the three assessment areas of Artistic Contribution and Significance, Organizational Capacity and Governance, and Community Impact and Involvement. Their scores resulted in a rank in the middle third of annual applicants and warranted application of the principle that consistent performance merits consistent funding. This organization is recommended for a level of funding equal to the previous year.

**2024 Operating Grant Recommendations  
Applicant Summary**

	Org's jurisdiction	2023 Project Grant	2023 Grant	2024 Request	2024 Grant Recommended
<b>VICTORIA BC SKA &amp; REGGAE</b>	Victoria		25,000	27,500	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: 7 members; Jesse Horwood, President

**Comments on the Recommendation**

This is one of 22 annual applicants that have received operating support in the previous year. The organization was assessed above a satisfactory level in the three assessment areas of Artistic Contribution and Significance, Organizational Capacity and Governance, and Community Impact and Involvement. Their scores resulted in a rank in the middle third of annual applicants and warranted application of the principle that consistent performance merits consistent funding. This organization is recommended for a level of funding equal to the previous year.

**2024 Operating Grant Recommendations  
Applicant Summary**

	Org's jurisdiction	2023 Project Grant	2023 Grant	2024 Request	2024 Grant Recommended
<b>VICTORIA CHILDREN'S CHOIR</b>	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: 7 members; Catherine Fouracre, President

**Comments on the Recommendation**

This is one of 22 annual applicants that have received operating support in the previous year. The organization was assessed at or above a satisfactory level in the three assessment areas of Artistic Contribution and Significance, Organizational Capacity and Governance, and Community Impact and Involvement. Their scores resulted in a rank in the bottom third of annual applicants but did not require a Notice of Significant Concern at this time. This organization is recommended for a level of funding equal to the previous year.

**2024 Operating Grant Recommendations  
Applicant Summary**

	Org's jurisdiction	2023 Project Grant	2023 Grant	2024 Request	2024 Grant Recommended
<b>VICTORIA ON STAGE</b>	Esquimal		21,500	30,000	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: Dan Comeau  
Board: 11 members, Suzan Pyke, President

**Comments on the Recommendation**

This is one of 22 annual applicants that have received operating support in the previous year. The organization was assessed at a satisfactory level in Community Impact and Involvement, but below a satisfactory level in Artistic Contribution and Significance and Organizational Capacity and Governance. Additionally, the scores for this application resulted in a rank in the bottom third of annual applicants. This organization is recommended for a level of funding equal to the previous year with the stipulation of a Notice of Significant Concern that will require an additional report in next year's application detailing what actions have been taken to address the concern.

**2024 Operating Grant Recommendations  
Applicant Summary**

	Org's jurisdiction	2023 Project Grant	2023 Grant	2024 Request	2024 Grant Recommended
<b>VICTORIA SHAKESPEARE SOCIETY</b>	Victoria		20,000	25,000	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.

Outgoing Artistic Director: Karen Lee Pickett  
New (2023) Co-Artistic Producers: Maddy Hooson-Kirstein, Francis Matheu, Willow Hayes  
Board: 4 members, Cam Culham, President  
Advisory Board: 4 members

**Comments on the Recommendation**

This is one of 22 annual applicants that have received operating support in the previous year. The organization was assessed above a satisfactory level in the three assessment areas of Artistic Contribution and Significance, Organizational Capacity and Governance, and Community Impact and Involvement. Their scores resulted in a rank in the middle third of annual applicants and warranted application of the principle that consistent performance merits consistent funding. This organization is recommended for a level of funding equal to the previous year.

**2024 Operating Grant Recommendations  
Applicant Summary**

	Org's jurisdiction	2023 Project Grant	2023 Grant	2024 Request	2024 Grant Recommended
<b>WONDERHEADS THEATRE</b>	Victoria	6,650		28,000	22,000

**Background/description**

Wonderheads, formed in 2009, this is a physical theatre company specializing in mask performance and visual storytelling. Their work is performed in full-face mask, and is wordless. Over the past fourteen years they have developed five original productions: Grim and Fischer, LOON, The Middle of Everywhere, The Wilds, and A WONDERHEADS Christmas Carol, which have toured to festivals and performing arts centres throughout Canada and the United States.

Co-founding Artistic Directors/General Managers: Kate Braidwood and Andrew Phoenix

Board: 5 members, Nathaniel Justiniano, President

**Comments on the Recommendation**

This is one of three new applicants for operating funding. The organization was assessed above a satisfactory level in Artistic Contribution and Significance, Organizational Capacity and Governance, and Community Impact and Involvement. Out of the 25 applications in this intake (22 existing clients and 3 new applicants), this application had the highest score. The organization is recommended for operating funding at a level of \$22,000.

**REPORT TO ARTS COMMISSION  
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 24, 2024**

---

**SUBJECT**     **Annual Joint Meeting of Arts Commission and Arts Advisory Council**

**ISSUE SUMMARY**

The Arts Commission has tasked staff with providing advice on the best way to approach an annual joint meeting between the Arts Commission and Arts Advisory Council.

**BACKGROUND**

On November 22, 2023, the Arts Commission passed a motion “[t]hat staff report back to the Commission on the advisability of an annual joint meeting with the Arts Advisory Council”.

On January 9, 2024, the Arts Advisory Council discussed the issue of an annual joint meeting with the Arts Commission. Key considerations included: feasibility (in terms of scheduling), objective, and timing with existing annual cycles and reports.

The consensus was that having Arts Advisory Council members join a regularly scheduled Arts Commission meeting would be the best way to attain the highest level of engagement from all parties involved. In terms of objectives, the preference was to have a way of reviewing the past year and looking forward to the next one.

It was noted that the annual Impact Report provides an ideal opportunity to review the accomplishments and challenges of the previous year. As the next Impact Report is scheduled for review at the May 2024 Arts Commission meeting, this also aligns well to the CRD annual budgeting cycle. Input from the Arts Commission – with advice from the Arts Advisory Council – at a May or June meeting would be considered by staff in shaping the provisional budget report, which is presented to the Arts Commission on an annual basis in September.

**ALTERNATIVES**

*Alternative 1*

That the Arts Advisory Council is invited to the May 2024 Arts Commission meeting to review the 2023 Annual Impact Report and, moving forward, is also invited on an annual basis to the Arts Commission meeting in which this report is presented.

*Alternative 2*

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

**CONCLUSION**

The Arts Commission tasked staff with looking at the advisability of an annual joint meeting with the Arts Advisory Council. The Arts Advisory Council was consulted, and their preference was to align a joint meeting with the review of the annual Impact Report. The Impact Report is next scheduled for presentation to the Arts Commission in May 2024.

**RECOMMENDATION**

That the Arts Advisory Council is invited to the May 2024 Arts Commission meeting to review the 2023 Annual Impact Report and, moving forward, is also invited on an annual basis to the Arts Commission meeting in which this report is presented.

Submitted by:	Chris Gilpin, MPA, Manager, Arts & Culture
---------------	--

**ATTACHMENTS**

No attachments.