



Making a difference...together

**Minutes of a Meeting of the ARTS COMMISSION
Held March 27, 2024, in Room 488, 625 Fisgard St., Victoria, BC**

EP = Electronic Participation

Members Present: M. Alto (Chair), D. Cavens, S. Epp, D. Lajeunesse, G. Lemon (EP),
C. Smart (EP), K. Roessingh (EP)
Staff: C. Gilpin, Manager, Arts & Culture Service;
A. Gibbs, Community Outreach Coordinator,
E. Sterling, Administrative Assistant (recorder)
Also present: Arts Advisory Council: Vice Chair, S. Reid
Regrets: P. Brent, C. Plant

The meeting was called to order at 4:02 pm.

1 Territorial Acknowledgement

Chair Alto provided a Territorial Acknowledgement, reflecting on what a privilege it is to do our work on these territories. Speaking from the main office of the CRD, we are on the traditional, as well as contemporary, territories of the Songhees Nation and Esquimalt Nation. Chair Alto invited members to reflect daily on how our decisions and actions can reflect the greeting “Hych’ka Siem” – our thanks and honouring of those nations on whose territories we work.

2 Approval of Agenda

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

CARRIED

3 Adoption of Minutes

**MOVED by Member Lajeunesse, SECONDED by Member Cavens,
That the minutes of the January 24, 2024, Arts Commission meeting be adopted.**

CARRIED

4 Chair’s Remarks – None

5 Presentations/Delegations – None

6 Commission Business

6.1 Arts Advisory Council (AAC) Report (verbal)

AAC Vice Chair Reid provided the following update:
Grant adjudication season is in full swing, so AAC members are busy reading applications: Equity and Incubator grants are currently being scored and IDEA grants will start adjudication next week. The AAC met earlier this month to review the results of the adjudication for the January Project Grants, which will be presented later in this meeting. There was an increase in the number of Project Grant applications, and many were of high quality and reflect high quality projects that will be receiving CRD funding.

The AAC is glad to be invited by the Arts Commission to their May meeting and members are looking forward to collaborating and getting to know each other better. Vice Chair Reid noted the arts activities that members have been able to experience to enhance their knowledge of the arts sector throughout the region.

6.1.2 Arts Advisory Council Minutes March 12, 2024 – received for information

6.1.3 Arts Advisory Council Activities by Council Summary – received for information

Chair Alto noted her appreciation for the activity summary, as it reminds her of how many different arts opportunities there are in the region.

6.2 Manager's Report (verbal)

C. Gilpin reported on the following:

- Three online information sessions were scheduled for spring: and two have been held with above average attendance and one is scheduled for tomorrow.
- Equity, IDEA, Incubator grant programs closed March 14th, with 15 Equity, 3 Incubator, and 20 IDEA grant applications received, which are above average numbers. Funding recommendations from those programs will come back to the Arts Commission in May. The April Project grant intake is still open until April 18th.
- As highlighted in the Outreach report, the CRD Arts Division was contacted by the Canada Council about connecting its new CEO, Michelle Chowla, to the local arts community. We invited senior staff from the BC Arts Council so that local arts leaders could give feedback to two main funders. Approximately 25 local arts leaders asked questions for an hour. Feedback from the Canada Council was that it was a model of engagement.
- H. Heywood retired today. We welcome E. Sterling as the new administrative assistant.

**MOVED by Member Epp, SECONDED by Member Cavens,
To receive the Manager's Report.**

CARRIED

6.3 Advancing Goal #1 of CRD Arts & Culture Support Service's Strategic Plan

C. Gilpin introduced the staff report, reminding members that it came out of the November 22nd Arts Commission meeting from a motion arising. Moving forward, staff are recommending they focus on advocating for a regional approach for arts funding through the outreach and communications plan. The report also recommends that, as elected officials, the Commission members take the lead on championing the arts service to the non-participating jurisdictions.

Questions were raised and the following points were made:

- Chair Alto noted that she had accompanied staff to presentations so that she could do the lobbying work while staff presented the facts.
- Langford is the jurisdiction that showed the strongest interest in joining the service. Their Council recommended a new arts & culture strategy for the first quarter of 2025.
- There is an ongoing conversation at the CRD Board about prioritizing Arts & Culture, i.e. encouraging a higher threshold of participation.

**MOVED by Member Cavens, SECONDED by Member Lajeunesse,
That Arts Commission members continue to advance Goal #1 of the 2024-27 Strategic Plan through championing the value proposition of participating in the CRD Arts Service and that staff include an emphasis on raising awareness about the benefits of a regional approach to arts funding through the upcoming outreach and communications plan.**

CARRIED

6.4. January 2024 Project Grant Recommendations

C. Gilpin introduced the recommendations:

- 35 applications this intake. 23 applications were recommended for funding:
 - o The top two applications were exemplary and recommended to receive full funding of their request;
 - o 21 other applications were assessed above the satisfactory level and would receive partial funding; and
 - o 12 applications were below satisfactory level and would not be funded.
- Scaling grant amounts allows us to fund a greater number of applications.
- Unsuccessful applicants are eligible to apply again for the April intake deadline if they wish.

Questions arose and the following points were made:

- The distribution of project grants changes from year to year. It is dependent upon the number and quality of applications received.
- Feedback is given to unsuccessful applicants but we do not give options for other grants to apply for. Arts Commission members could direct applicants to local grant opportunities.

**MOVED by Member Roessingh, SECONDED by Member Lemon,
That the Arts Advisory Council recommends to the Arts Commission:
That the January 2024 Project Grant recommendations be approved as presented.**

CARRIED

Member Cavens and Chair Alto thanked staff and the Arts Advisory Council for their work.

7 New Business - None

8 Correspondence - None

9 Adjournment

**MOVED by Member Cavens, SECONDED by Member Lajeunesse,
That the meeting be adjourned at 4:43 pm.**

CARRIED

CHAIR (Marianne Alto)

RECORDER (Erin Sterling)