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STAFF REPORT TO ARTS COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, JUNE 9, 2010

SUBJECT

Arts Development May 2010 Project Grant Recommendations

PURPOSE/ISSUE

The purpose of this report is to provide information on the Arts Advisory Council recommendations for May 2010 project grants.

HISTORY/BACKGROUND

The AAC Funding Committee met on May 25 to review project grant applications. Their recommendations were presented to the Arts Advisory Council and were approved at their meeting of June 1, 2010. The recommendations were the result of the following process:

- staff vetting of applicant eligibility
- submission of completed applications with support materials by the published deadline of May 7, 2010
- staff review and reports for committee on organizational backgrounds and project description
- distribution of staff reports and full applications to the AAC Funding Committee
- Funding Committee adjudication of applications based on established criteria

There is \$32,000 remaining in the project grant annual allocation. Requests totaled \$64,750.

COMMENTS

Twelve applications were received initially. One was withdrawn prior to adjudication resulting in the adjudication of eleven applications. Six applications were from first time applicants.

In recommending grants the Funding Committee's decision-making process took into account the following:

- fulfillment of the published criteria
- the clarity of the information presented
- the reasonableness of the project budget
- the requirement of CRD support in order to produce the project
- other resources available to the applicant
- the significance of the event to the region

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Approval of the recommendations will result in the disbursement of the remainder of the 2010 project grant allocation.

SUMMARY

Eleven applications were adjudicated. Nine were recommended for funding six of which were from first time applicants.

In total 30 applications were submitted to the project grant program for 2010 the most received since the inception of the Service.

RECOMMENDATION

The recommendation is that the Arts Advisory Council 2010 May Project Grant recommendations be approved.



James Lam, Manager
CRD Arts Development Service

Project Grant Applicants - May 2010

	request	project budget	rec/award
Capital Festival Orchestra Society	\$7,750	\$81,500	4,000
Community Arts Council of Saanich Peninsula	\$3,500	\$7,600	2,000
Ensemble Laude Choral Society	\$7,000	\$23,050	4,500
Gotta Getta Gimmick	\$9,000	\$28,100	4,000
Impromaniacs Theatre Company Society	\$3,500	\$116,380	2,000
ITSAZOO Productions Society	\$8,000	\$18,400	0
Mary Winspear Centre (The)	\$5,000	\$14,900	4,000
Sidney Concert Society	\$2,000	\$7,550	2,000
Via Choralis Performance Society	\$4,000	\$8,550	3,000
Victoria Fine Art Festival	\$5,000	\$21,000	0
Victoria Good News Choir Society	\$10,000	\$59,100	6,500

Total	\$64,750	\$386,130	32,000
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PROJECT GRANTS May 2010

Capital Festival Orchestra Society

Society reg. March 22, 2005

S-0048865

Project Hansel & Gretel

Project Date Aug 1 - 2, 2010

Request \$7,750.00

Project budget \$81,500.00

Recm'd/Award \$4,000.00

Previous SP Funding May 2009, \$0; Jan 2010, \$0

Applicant's Project Description

Hansel & Gretel is the highlight of the full BC weekend festival with three, family-friendly performances that will be free to the public. All events take place at St. Ann's Academy.

Sarah Sloan is confirmed as the soprano. Jacqueline Sloan is the producer/advisor and Colin Dorischuk is the Music/Advisor. The production includes 14 Veselka dancers that will flit throughout the grounds all weekend like midsummer fairies.

Comments

The CFOS has applied twice before but not received a grant. Previous applications lacked sufficient detail and coherence that would indicate a level of planning and organization required to produce the proposed project. The application under consideration is improved but still not considered to be at a level generally required of organizations applying to this program. Despite this, a grant recommendation is being made based on the fact that one event has been produced and the AAC wishes to support the potential of the initiative. Future consideration will depend on the application demonstrating the minimum level of planning normally required of other applicants in regards to written clarity and confirmation of specifics.

Community Arts Council of Saanich

Society reg. Jan 13, 1994

0978353-22

Project First Nations Art Show 2010

Project Date Sept 1 - 25, 2010

Request \$3,500.00

Project budget \$7,600.00

Recm'd/Award \$2,000.00

Previous SP Funding Jan 2010, \$0;

Applicant's Project Description

Show of work by First Nations artists from Tseycum, Paquachan, Tswowat and/or Tsartlip bands. No entry or commission fees will be charged to the artists and all revenues from sales will go to the Peninsula FN artists.

This will showcase Peninsula FN art in a gallery setting in Sidney enabling artists to demonstrate for the public, make sales and take orders without fees to CACSP.

The CACSP will cover all advertising costs and sales costs such as administration, credit card fees, bookkeeping and cashiering)

Funding will assist with show coordinator expense and advertising costs.

Comments

This applicant has applied once before but not received a grant. The AAC supports this application for the program development opportunity to the applicant organization and for the community benefit related to the production of the exhibition of local First Nations artists. A grant recommendation is made with the expectation that such a program has the potential to be self-supporting in future iterations.

PROJECT GRANTS May 2010

Ensemble Laude Choral Society

Society reg. July 2, 2009

S-55314

Project Annual Gala Concert

Project Date April 24, 2011

Request \$7,000.00

Project budget \$23,050.00

Recm'd/Award \$4,500.00

Previous SP Funding first-time applicant

Applicant's Project Description

The Annual Gala concert will showcase the year's research and development of a program of music, rooted in the sacred modes of the middle ages, but reaching out to make musical connections with a diverse range of cultures. Both the Ensemble and its repertoire are unique as it maintains the flavour of vocally centered Early Music while exploring the relationships between European modes and harmonic structures and those of other parts of the world. The concert will take place in St. Andrew's church, the best acoustic space available in Victoria. A CD will be recorded; it will be an invaluable tool for attracting new audiences. It will be made within a day or two of the concert by recording engineer Chris MacIntosh and will be mixed and produced by Wayne Kozak Audio. The concert will also feature four professional musicians in solo and accompanying roles, playing on early instruments, greatly adding to the authenticity of the occasion.

Comments

This is a first-time applicant. A recommendation is made to support this choral group which specializes in early music vocal performance.

Gotta Getta Gimmick

Society reg. July 11, 2009

S-52200

Project Music Theatre Workshop Presentation

Project Date August - September 2010

Request \$9,000.00

Project budget \$28,100.00

Recm'd/Award \$4,000.00

Previous SP Funding first-time applicant

Applicant's Project Description

GGG will workshop a new Canadian musical called Tragic Animal Stories by Victoria's Erin Macklem and composer Avery Brown. The intention is to develop a new and original piece of musical theatre that will have longevity within a broader community and contribute to the artistic milieu locally, provincially, nationally, and internationally. The process will include development of script and score with a cast and creative team of emerging and established artists, artistic design concepts and experimentation with production values and tech for a full-scale production in Victoria. A series of free public performances will engage audiences in a dialogue about the piece and its impact, and the art form of music theatre in the CRD.

The script is in the advanced stages of development that began 10 years ago. In the full-length piece ensemble members and musicians will create a "living soundtrack". GGG will utilize a portion of its retained surplus in the production of this project.

Comments

This is a first-time applicant. A grant is recommended to support the workshopping of an original musical developed by local performers, composers and directors. The recommendation is made with the understanding that admission to the performance will be free to the public. The organization will be advised that consideration for future application should include developing alternate revenue sources particularly self generated revenue through box office admissions.

PROJECT GRANTS May 2010

Impromaniacs Theatre Company Society

Society reg. April 6, 1992

S-28901

Project Fifth Edition of the Victoria International Improv

Project Date Oct 20 - 24, 2010

Request \$3,500.00

Project budget \$116,380.00

Recm'd/Award \$2,000.00

Previous SP Funding May 2003, \$2000; Jan 2004, \$3000; Jan 2006, \$3000; Jan 2008, \$3500; Jan 2009, \$2000;

Applicant's Project Description

The project is to organize and present the fifth Victoria International Improv Festival (VIIF). The three-day program includes 18 performances, six workshops, 15 televisions recycled into visual art by local artists, and one resident poet who will create poetry on the spot. There will be featured improvisers from Vancouver island, the lower mainland, Edmonton, Toronto, New York City, and Slovenia.

The primary objectives of the VIIF are:

1. To connect with professional improvisational theater companies to develop performance levels of local improvisers
2. To promote improvisational theater to a broad community base and include the general public in the world of improvisation
3. To diversify their audience base through the featured programs of the VIIF

Comments

This organization has received project grant funding on a regular basis since 2003. It is recommended for grant for the in niche that it occupies in providing an improvisation Festival for the region. It should be noted that the cash budget for the event is \$19,277.

ITSAZOO Productions Society

Society reg. March 16, 2006

S-50401

Project Robin Hood

Project Date July 20 - 31, 2010

Request \$8,000.00

Project budget \$18,400.00

Recm'd/Award \$0.00

Previous SP Funding Jan 2007, \$2000; Jan 2008, \$5000; Jan 2009, \$5000; Jan 2010, \$0;

Applicant's Project Description

An original adaptation and modernization of *Robin Hood* by Sebastien Archibald will be presented in July 2010 at Banfield Park. Since it first appeared in the 15th century, the story has stayed ever-present, a timeless tale. The artistic objective of this adaptation is to make the story relatable and fresh to a modern audience. Original characters will be maintained and convey their archetypical characteristics in today's world. Robin Hood's costume will be updated and he will be exposed to the complexities faced in current everyday life. "Stealing from the rich and giving to the poor" will be explored in a modern context. Robin Hood will be an outdoor promenade show with the audience literally following the action. Set pieces will not be required as the environment provides the backdrop, the levels and the masking. Itsazoo's previous explorations with outdoor, roving pieces have proven to be highly successful, based on their artistic assessments and the feedback from their audiences. Moving through a park will create a feeling of being on an adventure.

Comments

Itsazoo has received previous funding from the project grant program. The organization is now based in Vancouver as evidenced by statements on its website and residency of its board. As such it is no longer considered eligible under the CRD project grant program.

PROJECT GRANTS May 2010

Mary Winspear Centre (The)

Society reg. July 22, 1987

S-20029

Project Brain Fry

Project Date February 20 - 25, 2010

Request \$5,000.00

Project budget \$14,900.00

Recm'd/Award \$4,000.00

Previous SP Funding May 2009, \$3000;

Applicant's Project Description

Brain Fry is a theatrical production that illuminates the effects of technology on children. Technology has had many effects on children, some good, others not so good. Problematic effects include childhood obesity, addiction to gaming/internet and internet predators. Positive effects include a sense of empowerment for children and tools for problem-solving. *Brain Fry* investigates both sides of the issue.

This project will build on the success of their previous production, *The Magic Forest*, attracting young people to the theatre, creating audiences for the future. It is a 60 minute musical/theatrical performance dealing with these current social issues.

The performance will be inspired and performed by youth. It will develop acting and stagecraft skills and create a link with the young audience. School age children from school districts 61 and 63 will be invited to view and participate in the presentation.

Comments

The recommendation is to support a theatrical production aimed at developing youth audiences as well as to support the production capacity of the applicant organization. The organization will be encouraged to pursue private sector sponsorship as an additional revenue stream.

Sidney Concert Society

Society reg. May 22, 2009

S-0040052

Project Chopin Concert

Project Date Oct 22, 2010

Request \$2,000.00

Project budget \$7,550.00

Recm'd/Award \$2,000.00

Previous SP Funding first-time applicant

Applicant's Project Description

This concert will feature a Chopin piece for piano and orchestra with pianist Jamie Sayer. It will take place at St. Elizabeth's Church in Sidney on October 22, 2010 under the baton of Stephen Brown, head of Theory and Composition at VCM. The society doesn't have any full time employees; the conductor, soloists, and musicians are paid per performance based on union scales.

Comments

This is a first time applicant. The recommendation of this grant will provide support for the organization through its 2010/11 concert season. The organization requires advice on its capacity to continue operations and a suggestion will be made that it consider approaching the Victoria Foundation for support through its Community Advisor program.

PROJECT GRANTS May 2010

Via Choralis Performance Society

Society reg.

S-0044171

Project Sea Cantata

Project Date April 9 & 17, 2011

Request \$4,000.00

Project budget \$8,550.00

Recm'd/Award \$3,000.00

Previous SP Funding first-time applicant

Applicant's Project Description

Via Choralis and Viva Youth Choirs will be joining in a unique, educational collaboration of musical experience. The project combines an orchestra with children's and adults' voices, performing *Sea Cantata*, a new work by Nicholas Fairbank, associate composer with the Canadian Music Centre. There will be two concerts, the first on April 9th at St. Aidan's Church in Saanich and the second on April 17th at St. Elizabeth's Church in Sidney. Separate choir and orchestra practices will take place prior to a dress rehearsal on April 8th.

Comments

This is a first time applicant. Via Choralis will be jointly presenting with Viva Youth Choirs. While the latter group receives operating funding from the CRD and is ineligible for support through the project grant program the applicant has clearly delineated the aspects in its project description and in its budget for which it is seeking support. The grant will support a new choral composition as well as provide employment for professional musicians and performance opportunities for young chorists.

Victoria Fine Art Festival

Society reg. March 5, 2009

S-54789

Project Outsider Art Today

Project Date July 30-Aug 28, 2010

Request \$5,000.00

Project budget \$21,000.00

Recm'd/Award \$0.00

Previous SP Funding first-time applicant

Applicant's Project Description

"Outsider Art Today" is an education based visual art exhibition which will bring the work of 12 practicing artists from around the world in one exhibit. It will show the diversity of art making that exists within the Outsider Art community today. This survey of art will represent the many styles, mediums and ideologies of these artists which will help bring a better understanding to the growing genre. All of the artists are recognized within the Outsider Art community through support from galleries, collectors and institutions around the world. All work will be made available for sale in this exhibition.

In addition to the exhibition, there will be two film nights at the exhibition space. Both of these events will feature a documentary film on a recognized Outsider Artist and will follow with an open discussion. These events will be free and open to the public.

Comments

This is a first time applicant. This application is not recommended for support. With an exhibit scheduled for August 2010 and despite a budget reflecting projected amounts for venue, artists and other items there was no identified venue or local artists identified. In general there was inadequate information provided to indicate the curatorial intent nor was there a documented level of planning and organization sufficient to indicate the project could be completed successfully.

PROJECT GRANTS May 2010

Victoria Good News Choir Society

Society reg. Nov. 18 1998

S-39073

Project Developmental support

Project Date various ongoing events

Request \$10,000.00

Project budget \$59,100.00

Recm'd/Award \$6,500.00

Previous SP Funding first-time applicant

Applicant's Project Description

This project request is for developmental support of the organization and its activities throughout the projected season 2010/11 with emphasis on the following:

1. To attract new members from immigrant and aboriginal communities and those needing choral singing for health benefits
2. To make evident to the community that a non-auditioned choir drawn from diverse backgrounds can master complex rhythms and harmonies expressive of the backgrounds of its membership and leadership
3. Given the sole directorship of its founding director, to discover a new vitality in the choir are rising from increase diversity of membership
4. To advance the aesthetic tastes of the community through choral singing

Comments

This is a first time applicant. The recommendation is to support the developmental aspects specified in the application that will diversify the choir's base and provide a foundation for building organizational capacity.