



Making a difference...together

## MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE ARTS COMMITTEE

Held Wednesday, September 12, 2012 in Meeting Room 107, 625 Fisgard Street, Victoria, BC

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**PRESENT:** **Councillors:** D. Screech (Chair), P. Madoff (Vice-Chair), A. Dobb, C. Green, L. Hundleby, M. Loveless and M. Milne

**Staff:** J. Lam and G. Andrews (Recorder)

**REGRETS:** Councillor V. Sanders

Chair Screech called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m.

### 1. AGENDA

**MOVED** by Councillor Milne, **SECONDED** by Councillor Loveless, that the agenda be approved as circulated.

**CARRIED**

### 2. MINUTES

**MOVED** by Councillor Hundleby, **SECONDED** by Councillor Milne, that the Minutes of the June 13, 2012 Arts Committee meeting be approved as circulated.

**CARRIED**

**MOVED** by Councillor Hundleby, **SECONDED** by Councillor Milne, that the Minutes of the June 5, 2012 Arts Advisory Council meeting be received.

**CARRIED**

### 3. CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Screech reported that he attended two meetings regarding the proposed Royal Bay performing arts centre in Colwood. The current concept is that the theatre be incorporated within the new high school building shell, but funding is not yet known. These meetings provided opportunities for him to discuss Colwood's participation in the CRD Arts Development Service, in relation to the potential of providing CRD grant funding for productions in the proposed new theatre. Discussion will be on-going.

### 4. ARTS ADVISORY COUNCIL CHAIR'S REPORT

It was noted that AAC Chair, Patrick Fleck, is recovering well from a recent health issue and conveys thanks for the best wishes received from CRD Arts Development and the committee members. Mr. Fleck expects to be in attendance at the October meeting.

### 5. 2012-2014 STRATEGIC PLAN – WORK PLAN UPDATE

Mr. Lam spoke to the revised draft SP work plan and reviewed the following updates:

**Priority 2. Integrate the Arts Service into the CRD Sustainability Strategy:**

- At the last meeting of the Forum of Councils, a sub-goal was added to the CRD Draft Strategic Plan, to "Maintain support for Arts and Culture". Thanks go to the lobbying efforts of CRD Arts Committee members.

Arts Development will participate in a business case analysis for establishing a Sustainability Centre in the retail space of the Fisgard St. building - the first meeting is scheduled for September 24; an update will be provided at the committee's October meeting.

**Priority 3. Raise awareness of the Arts Service and the benefits of the arts:**

- Project and Idea grant “Arts Updates” were circulated; an Operating grant update will be produced in October 2012.
- Statistics indicate significant growth in visits to the CRD Arts Facebook page.

**Priority 4. Maintain collection and communication of economic indicators of the arts:**

- New data collection from operating grants begins with the September 19 deadline.
- The data collection for the second Economic Activity of the Arts survey will begin in December; it is hoped that Dr. Brock Smith will speak to the committee in October or November. Additional funding from Victoria Foundation has been confirmed and an initial planning meeting has taken place.

**Priority 5. Pursue the CRD Board’s adoption of the Arts Service Vision and Mission:**

- Occurred at the June 13, 2012 Board meeting.

During discussion, a query was raised about what constitutes art vs. culture, and how the line is drawn for purposes of funding. Mr. Lam noted that CRD Arts funding is distinctly restricted to the arts, but there are instances in which the two overlap. It was further noted that the federal and provincial governments fund arts and culture separately. Following up on Priority 2, it was reported that PSAs for both grant schedules/deadlines and results are circulated to local media.

Following discussion, it was,

**MOVED** by Councillor Green, **SECONDED** by Councillor Milne, that the Committee forward to the Board as correspondence, the Arts Updates for Operating, Project and Idea grants for information.

**CARRIED**

**MOVED** by Councillor Green, **SECONDED** by Councillor Hundleby, that the Update Report of the 2012-2014 Strategic Plan - Work Plan, be received.

**CARRIED**

## **6. Three Year Budgeting Update**

Mr. Lam circulated an outline of two current year plus 3-year budget scenarios. It was noted that this was not an official document, but would provide options for planning purposes, as the CRD moves to a fixed 3-year budget cycle. The 3-year cycle is meant to be in effect in the last 2 years of each Board’s mandate and the 1<sup>st</sup> year of the next elected Board, while new directors become familiar with the CRD budgeting process. The first year of effect will be 2013; only minor changes will be allowed in years 2 and 3, with other adjustments only for unanticipated items. The handout provided scenarios for 1) a status quo budget with no significant changes and minor increases to provide for administration and salary costs, and 2) a budget with the same administrative and salary changes as scenario 1, plus a maximum allowable 2% in requisition towards funding of grant programs. It was noted that Arts Development has had an essentially flat budget, with no increases for Project and Operating grants for the past four years. Mr. Lam then asked the committee to provide guidelines on how to proceed for the next three years.

The following comments were made during discussion:

- There have been no increases in provincial budgets and the same is anticipated for some municipalities; others will be limited to below 2%.
- Are there ways within the existing level of funding to maximize efficiencies?
- Increases in scenario 1 are based solely on meeting the collective agreement and internal allocations.

- While the committee ultimately expects there will be an increase in participation, this cannot be relied upon.
- There may be some expectation that additional participation will result in reducing the amounts contributed by existing group 1's.
- Advocacy is key if the objective of growing the arts for the CRD is to be achieved. Mr. Lam noted that ProArt Alliance's new Executive Director, Peter Sandmark, stated that ProArt will be renewing their efforts towards advocacy and providing outreach support in bringing in new municipalities.
- There is an accumulative negative effect of zero budgeting and there was some feeling that there should be some increase, even if below the cost of living.

It was then:

**MOVED** by Councillor Milne, **SECONDED** by Councillor Madoff, that the Committee recommend a 1% per year increase in the overall requisition for Arts Development for each year of its 3-year budget.

**CARRIED**

Hundleby - OPPOSED

Mr. Lam agreed to circulate the budget review and approval schedule.

## 7. CORRESPONDENCE

**MOVED** by Councillor Hundleby, **SECONDED** by Councillor Green, that the correspondence from Art Gallery of Greater Victoria, Youth Orchestra, Theatre Skam, Early Music Society of the Islands, Linden Singers, Metchosin Arts and Cultural Association and Friends of Music Society be received.

**CARRIED**

## 8. NEW BUSINESS

### 8.1 Proposed Redevelopment of Oak Bay High School

It was reported that Oak Bay Council recently had its 3rd reading of the bylaw to facilitate the Oak Bay High School re-development, which will include a new theatre in partnership with the District of Oak Bay and new Neighbourhood Learning Centre. The building will be designed to meet LEED Gold standards.

### 8.2 Creative City Network

Mr. Lam reported that the Creative City Network, a national non-profit organization that serves as a resource for municipal employees working in arts and culture will be holding their national summit in Victoria on October 22nd and 23rd. Arts Committee members will receive invitations to the opening reception.

## 9. ADJOURNMENT

**MOVED** by Councillor Madoff, **SECONDED** by Councillor Milne, that the meeting be adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

**CARRIED**

***The next regular meeting is scheduled for 4:00 p.m., Wednesday, October 10, 2012.***