



Making a difference...together

**REPORT TO ARTS COMMITTEE
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2015**

SUBJECT 2015 CRD ARTS DEVELOPMENT OPERATING GRANT RECOMMENDATIONS

ISSUE

Approval of 2015 Operating Grant recommendations

BACKGROUND

On November 29, 2014 the Arts Advisory Council met to evaluate 33 applications received at the September deadline for 2015 Arts Development Operating Grants. Thirty-two applications were from organizations currently receiving funding and one was from a new applicant.

The allocation for the 2015 operating fund is \$2,086,980. Total requests were \$2,284,300 a difference of \$197,320.00.

Referring to the program guidelines the Arts Advisory Council considered the following:

- the merits of each organization relative to the published criteria of artistic merit; administrative competence, and community impact;
- the role of each organization within the community;
- the capacity and sustainability of each organization relative to its mandate and goals;
- previous and proposed programming; and
- previous funding and the current grant request.

Several applications merited special attention.

Blue Bridge Theatre Society's production season and financial year-end had changed from previous applications, shifting their eligible funding period for 2015. This shift resulted in an ineligible period of operations falling between the 2014 and 2015 funding cycles. Their 2015 application contained a two-part request: one for the applicable 2015 funding period and a one-time request for support of the interim period. The Advisory Council recommended support for the eligible funding period only. After a discussion of potential sources of funds no support was recommended for the interim period. Release of recommended funds is subject to receipt of final versions of financial statements and business plan.

Suddenly Dance Theatre's and VIVA Choirs' consecutive yearly actual budgets were found to have fallen below the minimum requirements thereby becoming ineligible organizations according to the program guidelines. Both were evaluated and interviewed to assess the value of potential support in transitioning from the operating fund to other programs.

Suddenly Dance was recommended transitional support of \$6500 for 2015 with notice that they should apply to the Project Grant program beginning in 2016.

VIVA Choirs' application reflected organizational and program changes that fell short of the requirements for support through operating grants. As a result they were not recommended for transitional support and were directed to the Project Grant program beginning in January 2015.

Arts Committee – February 11, 2015
2015 CRD Arts Development Operating Grant Recommendations

2

The new applicant, The Greater Victoria Shakespeare Society, had previously applied to the operating program but had not been recommended due to internal capacity issues. It was determined that these issues have been resolved sufficiently and that the organization merited first time operating support.

A request for an appeal hearing was received from VIVA Choirs and from Blue Bridge Theatre Society. Information received from VIVA Choirs did not change their ineligibility due to budget size. The request from Blue Bridge Theatre Society only required clarifications related to the use of funding. As a result no appeal hearings were held.

In keeping with past practice, primary grant recommendations and secondary recommendations are provided. Primary recommendations are the actual grant recommendations of the AAC, reconciled to the 2015 operating grant allocation. Secondary recommendations are hypothetical and based on the “aspirational” need of applicants. Their purpose is to estimate the gap between available funding and the ideal level of support in a given year. They are provided for information only.

The primary grant recommendations total \$2,086,980. The secondary recommendations totaled \$2,151,800 representing an estimated gap of \$64,820.

A list of the applicants and recommendations is attached to this report.

ALTERNATIVES

1. That the Arts Advisory Council recommendations for 2015 operating grants be approved as presented.
2. That the Arts Advisory Council be asked to reconsider their recommendations.

IMPLICATIONS

1. Approval of the recommendations will result in the disbursement of the 2015 operating grant budget allocation.
2. A request to reconsider the recommendations should be made only if there are significant concerns with the process and the resulting recommendations.

CONCLUSION

The operating grant adjudication process begins in September and continues through December. It includes staff review of applications, opportunities for applicants to respond to questions, distribution of summary reports by staff, an initial evaluation of applications by the Advisory Council, interviews with the organizations senior staff and board members, and a final plenary recommendation meeting.

The adjudication is thorough, conscientious and detail oriented. Using an established process the Advisory Council produces a set of recommendations that provides to the best of their abilities a set of recommendations balancing the needs of the community according to the published goals and criteria of the program.

Thirty-two applicant organizations were recommended for funding including one that had not previously received funding through the program. Two organizations are being removed from the operating grant program.

Arts Committee – February 11, 2015
2015 CRD Arts Development Operating Grant Recommendations

3

RECOMMENDATION

That the Arts Committee accept the recommendation from the Arts Advisory Council and approve the 2015 operating grants as presented.



James Lam, Manager
CRD Arts Development Service

JL:sb
Attachment

2015 Operating Grant Recommendations

	2014 Grant	2015 Request	2015 Rec'md (budget)	2015 (secondary)
Art Gallery of Greater Victoria	437,000	439,000	438,000	439,000
Atomic Vaudeville	25,000	35,000	27,000	35,000
Aventa Ensemble	17,500	20,000	18,500	20,000
Ballet Victoria	35,000	45,000	40,000	45,000
Belfry Theatre	205,000	210,000	205,000	205,000
Blue Bridge Repertory Theatre	27,000	40,000	27,000	0
Cinevic	19,000	21,000	21,000	21,000
Community Arts Council of Greater Victoria	21,000	30,000	24,000	30,000
Dance Victoria	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000
Deluge Contemporary Art	37,210	39,000	37,210	39,000
Early Music Society	10,800	10,800	10,800	10,800
Greater Victoria Performing Arts Festival	8,000	10,000	8,000	10,000
Greater Victoria Shakespeare Festival		15,000	15,000	15,000
Greater Victoria Youth Orchestra	8,000	8,000	8,000	8,000
Intrepid Theatre	90,000	97,000	90,000	97,000
Kaleidoscope Theatre	53,000	58,000	53,000	58,000
MediaNet	18,000	25,000	19,000	22,000
Open Space	80,000	82,000	80,000	82,000
Pacific Opera Victoria	215,000	240,000	215,000	220,000
Palm Court Light Orchestra	6,000	10,000	6,000	7,500
Puente Theatre	23,210	30,000	24,970	26,000
Story Theatre	38,000	40,000	38,000	40,000
Suddenly Dance Theatre	10,000	20,000	6,500	10,000
Theatre Inconnu	22,000	26,000	23,000	26,000
Theatre SKAM	30,000	42,000	30,000	36,000
Victoria Children's Choir	10,000	20,000	11,000	20,000
Victoria Conservatory of Music	55,000	75,000	55,000	55,000
Victoria Film Festival	30,000	40,000	31,000	35,000
Victoria Jazz Society	55,000	57,000	55,000	57,000
Victoria Operatic Society	27,000	27,000	25,000	25,000
Victoria Symphony	384,000	395,000	384,000	395,000
VIVA Choirs	8,000	15,000	0	0
Xchanges Artists' Gallery	11,000	12,500	11,000	12,500

Total	2,065,720	2,284,300	2,086,980	2,151,800
--------------	------------------	------------------	------------------	-----------