



CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ESQUIMALT

MAYOR'S AND COUNCILLORS' REPORT

From: Councillor Meagan Brame

Council Meeting: Regular Council meeting June 22, 2020

Subject: CRD Arts Commission Update

COVID Update:

As the directive of the Provincial Health Officer to maintain social distancing continues, most of the arts organizations funded by the CRD are experiencing significant changes in organizational needs and programming. In response, the Arts Commission staff have increased digital outreach by:

- Posting resources and relief opportunities online for professional arts.
- Compiling lists of alternative arts and culture programming for the public, for example, an arts listing of family activities by grantees (Appendix A).
- Promoting arts and culture through social media and professional networks. Grant advertising and public art promotion gain the highest reach across Twitter, Facebook and Instagram. In May Instagram surpassed Facebook popularity, with over 700 followers.
- Convening the inter-municipal cultural planning Roundtable every second week, in virtual format, since March 22nd. Municipal staff attend electronically and share information about their communities.

Some organizations, such as the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria and “arc.hive”, re-opened with modified policies and procedures, while others cancelled their programming seasons. A formal survey for grantee organizations is underway. The CRD Arts & Culture Support Service is a subject matter expert for the 2019 Vital Signs report for the fourteenth year. The report will focus on COVID-19 impacts. Staff foresee monitoring becoming a prominent activity from June to August.

March 2020 Equity Grants

Equity Grants are intended to support applicants that face systemic barriers to accessing support through other CRD Arts and Culture Service funding programs. Equity Grants are unique among CRD funding programs as it allows a not-for-profit society to function as a “Sponsor Society” on behalf of an Equity applicant that is not itself a society.

Total requests were \$19,000 on cash budgets totaling \$31,810. The jury, comprised of two Arts Advisory Council members and a member from the arts community, The Equity

Grant program received four applications. This compares to six applications received in the previous year and four in the first year of the program.

Applications were assessed using a scoring matrix that reflected the desired outcomes of the program related to:

- The identified group or organization leading the project
- The thoroughness of the project description
- The benefits and impacts for the group, their community and the regional community
- An understanding of the intended audience
- Partnerships or collaborations
- The clarity of the proposed budget

Two applications scored at or above the satisfactory level and are recommended for funding. Two applications scored below the 50% level and are not recommended for support.

Sponsor – Community Micro-Lending, LGBTQ2+, Physical disability and mental illness - \$4000 - Victoria

Sponsor – Ptarmigan Art Society, LGBTQ2+, Indigenous - \$5000 – Southern Gulf Islands

March 2020 Incubator Grants

Incubator Grants are intended to enhance sustainability and resiliency in the arts by funding short-term staffing, mentoring, workspace, training or other resources that assist in the acceleration of organizational development or, in the development of new arts projects. They are aimed at emerging or established organizations with an arts mandate.

Total requests were \$10,000 on budgets totaling \$29,000. The jury, comprised of two Arts Advisory Council members and a member from the arts community, assessed both Equity and Incubator Grants. The Incubator Grant program received two applications. This compares to two applications in the first year, and four in the second.

The jurors assessed each of the Incubator applications using a scoring matrix that reflected the desired outcomes of the program related to:

- The thoroughness of the project description
- Key personnel
- The development of capacity within the organization as a result of the project
- Skills or development for personnel
- The creation of partnerships
- Impacts for the art form and the community
- The clarity of the proposed budget

Both applications came from groups in Saanich – Space Blanket Society and Starry Starry Skies – for \$5000 each.

March 2020 IDEA (Innovate, Develop, Experiment, Access) Grants

The IDEA Grant program supports and encourages initiatives in the arts by non-arts mandated organizations (all other Arts Service programs are focused on organizations with arts as the central purpose). Eighteen applications were received at the March deadline and were assessed by a jury that met via videoconference.

A four-member jury of Arts Advisory Council members assessed 18 applications. Thirteen applicants were returning applicants, twelve of which had received previous funding. Five applicants were new to the program.

A total of \$53,000 in requests was received on cash budgets totaling \$403,605. The budget for IDEA grants was \$30,000 however unspent funds from the Equity and Incubator programs were reallocated for use if necessary.

Thirteen applications that scored at or above the satisfactory level are recommended for funding. Five applications scored below the 50% level and are not recommended for support.



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March 2020 IDEA Recommendations				REQUEST	Revenue (cash & in-kind)	Revenue cash only	GRANT Rec'd
Sooke	Amber Academy Youth Fine Arts			\$3,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$3,000
Victoria	Burnside Gorge Community Assn.	New		\$3,000	\$4,665	\$3,000	\$3,000
Victoria	Congregation Emanu-El			\$3,000	\$65,482	\$63,850	\$3,000
Victoria	Creatively United for the Planet Society			\$3,000	\$15,700	\$15,700	\$0
Esquimalt	Esquimalt Farmers Market Society	New		\$3,000	\$14,815	\$10,504	\$3,000
Victoria	Friends of Bowker Creek Society			\$3,000	\$7,900	\$6,000	\$3,000
Victoria	Friends of Music Society			\$3,000	\$4,020	\$3,300	\$0
Sooke	Harmony Project Sooke			\$3,000	\$77,000	\$77,000	\$3,000
Esquimalt	Inclusive Leadership Co-operative	New		\$3,000	\$4,050	\$3,200	\$0
Victoria	Inter-Cultural Assn of Greater Victoria			\$3,000	\$53,600	\$53,600	\$0
Saanich	Jewish Community Centre of Victoria			\$3,000	\$46,410	\$36,350	\$3,000
Victoria	Pacific Peoples' Partnership Assn			\$3,000	\$114,300	\$75,000	\$3,000
Victoria	ProArt Alliance	New		\$3,000	\$3,300	\$3,000	\$0
SGL	Salish Sea Inter-Island Transportation			\$3,000	\$14,000	\$14,000	\$3,000
Victoria	Victoria Brain Injury Society			\$2,000	\$5,932	\$5,332	\$2,000
Vic/Saanich	Victoria Hospice Society			\$3,000	\$9,500	\$9,500	\$3,000
Victoria	Victoria Society for Blind Arts	New		\$3,000	\$7,900	\$3,200	\$3,000
Victoria	Victoria Women's Transition House			\$3,000	\$19,569	\$16,069	\$3,000
Totals:				\$53,000	\$473,143	\$403,605	\$38,000

Respectfully Submitted,

Councillor Meagan Brame