



CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF ESQUIMALT

MAYOR'S AND COUNCILLORS' REPORT

From: Councillor Meagan Brame

Council Meeting: April 15, 2019

Subject: CRD Arts Commission Update

Operating Grants - 2019

The Operating Grant adjudication process begins in September and continues through December. It includes a staff review of applications followed by assessment and scoring of all applications by each member of the Arts Advisory Council. The Council then meets in a plenary session to consider the merits of each application.

The assessment uses a procedure that is evenly applied to all applicants through a standardized application and adjudication process. The recommendations balance the concerns of the community in accordance with the published goals and criteria of the program and in fulfilment of the purpose of the Arts & Culture Support Service.

Twenty annual applicants were recommended for 2019 annual operating grant funding and nine applicants were recommended for multi-year approval.

*See attached document

Project Grants

Project Grants support established or emerging arts organizations working on a project-to-project basis, producing one-time, unique or developmental opportunities and events, or, recurring events or applications reflecting ongoing operations that are not of a scale appropriate to the operating grant program.

Twenty-five applications were received by the January 2019 Project Grant deadline and were assessed by an adjudication committee. Their recommendations were then reviewed at a plenary meeting of the Arts Advisory Council.

Three of the applicants had not previously applied to the program. They were:

- Sooke Community Choir
- Sooke Folk Music Society
- Victoria Guitar Society

Applications are assessed in five areas: contribution to the development of artists, to the art form, or to organizational capacity; past success; the capacity of personnel; appropriateness of budget; and impact on the community. Final Reports from previously funded projects were reviewed where applicable. Recommendations are based on the merits of each project and were assessed according to responses to a standard set of questions, projected budgets and financial statements.

The goal of the adjudication was to award sufficient funding to a variety of organizations that would enable the production of a range of activities for audiences in the region and provide developmental opportunities for funded organizations.

It was determined that all organizations merited some degree of funding. The Canadian Light Orchestra and the Garden City Electronic Music Society are recommended only for support of the portions of their proposal that will be produced in a participating municipality. Retroactive programming is not funded therefore the Good News Choir application is recommended for support only for programming that will take place after the grant approval date.

Many smaller requests were recommended for full or close-to-full support. Larger requests were generally supported at levels similar to the previous year's proposals. Other considerations influencing recommendations included evidence of cash reserves as indicated by financial statements.

*See attached document

Funding Community Arts Councils

There are discussions happening around the creation of a separate fund for community arts councils (CACs) as a way to ensure that local arts initiatives are funded as part of the overall regional support framework. Staff were asked to provide information on how community arts councils are funded in other jurisdictions.

There are about 65 organizations specifically calling themselves "community arts councils" operating in rural and urban communities in BC. Seven operate within the capital region.

CACs within participating CRD Arts Service jurisdictions:

- Sooke Arts Council
- Southern Gulf Islands Arts Council
- Township Community Arts Council (TCAC) Esquimalt
- Victoria Arts Council

There are three CACs within non-participating CRD Arts Service jurisdictions:

- Saanich Peninsula Arts Council
- Salt Spring Arts Council
- Westshore Arts Council

Function of CACs and Funding in Other Jurisdictions

A community arts council is a not-for-profit organization with a mandate that is focused on presenting, producing or facilitating arts programming with a particular focus on activities that represent the local community. CACs often receive support from their local government through traditional funding programs or grants-in-aid. A CAC may be the nexus of arts activity in a smaller or rural community. In larger or urban centres CACs co-exist with other community and professional arts organizations.

Many CACs receive funding through the BC Arts Council (BCAC). Historically, BCAC funding of CACs was a mechanism through which the provincial government supported the arts in smaller communities. Until recently the BCAC had a specific funding program for CACs, however this fund has been changed to the "Community Arts Organizations" fund and now supports other community-based organizations in addition to CACs.

Part of the BCAC Community Arts Organizations fund budget is still set aside for CACs. Grants are provided by way of a formula based on population and distance from BC's two major urban centres (Vancouver or Victoria), the minimum grant based on this formula is \$3000. CACs receiving formula-based assistance can also receive a 100% matching amount equal to local government support. Finally, there is a non-formula-based award based on an application and assessment of a CACs program and performance.

Funding of CACs through the CRD Arts Service

Several CACs have received assistance through project grants including TCAC, Saanich Peninsula Arts Council and Westshore Arts Council. It is expected that CACs based in Sooke and SGI will apply to Project grants in 2019.

The Saanich Peninsula Arts Council has received support through Project Grants but is no longer eligible as Sidney has withdrawn from the Arts Service. The Westshore Arts Council has recently become ineligible (although it continues to serve participating jurisdictions of Metchosin and Highlands) due to its now being based in Langford. Current policy states that organizations must be based in and present their programming in a contributing municipality. Being "based-in" is defined by a standard used by the Registrar of Societies, which requires a physical mailing address to which legal documents can be served.

The Victoria Arts Council, formally known as the Community Arts Council of Greater Victoria, has received Arts Service operating funding since 2001. At that time, it was the only CAC within the Arts Service contributing areas.

To date, the goal of Arts Service funding programs has been to support organizations with regional impact. Creating a fund for organizations whose primary impact is intended to be local may be valid but would require clarity in purpose, policy and implementation.

The Commission has sent this to the Arts Committee for input with the following questions:

- Definition of a CAC for the purposes of CRD funding
- Determination of sufficient level of support and approval of funds
- Assessment processes
- Administrative and other requirements

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor Meagan Brame