

ARTS COMMISSION

Notice of Meeting on **Wednesday, June 26, 2024, at 4:00 p.m.**
Room 488, 4th Floor, 625 Fisgard Street, Victoria, BC; and Electronic Participation

M. Alto (Chair)	D. Cavens	D. Lajeunesse	C. Plant	C. Smart
P. Brent	S. Epp	G. Lemon	K. Roessingh	

The public are welcome to attend Arts Commission meetings in-person. Delegations will have the option to participate electronically. Please complete the online application at www.crd.bc.ca/address no later than 4:30 pm two days before the meeting and staff will respond with details.

AGENDA

1. Territorial Acknowledgement

2. Approval of Agenda

Recommendation: That the agenda for the June 26, 2024 Arts Commission meeting be approved.

3. Adoption of Minutes of May 22, 2024

Recommendation: That the minutes of the Arts Commission meeting of May 22, 2024, be adopted.

4. Chair's Remarks

5. Presentations/Delegations

6. Commission Business

6.1 Arts Advisory Council Update

6.1.1. Arts Advisory Council Chair's Report (verbal)

6.1.2. Arts Advisory Council Minutes: June 11, 2024 - for information

6.1.3. Arts Advisory Council *Activities by Council Summary*: June 11, 2024 – for information

6.2 Manager's Report (verbal)

6.2.1 Outreach Report (written)

6.3 April 2024 Project Grant Recommendations

Recommendation: The Arts Advisory Council recommends to the Arts Commission:
That the April 2024 Project Grant recommendations be approved as presented.

Attachments: Staff Report: April 2024 Project Grant Recommendations
Appendix A: April 2024 Project Grant Recommendations and Summaries

6.4 Greater Victoria Regional Arts Award Funding Request from ProArt Alliance

Recommendation: That \$6,000 be provided from the Arts and Culture Support Service operating budget, using the operating reserve, if necessary, to ProArt Alliance of Greater Victoria to support the 2024 Greater Victoria Regional Arts Awards to convene and celebrate the CRD arts community with \$5,000 dedicated to funding the CRD Arts Commission Regional Impact Award and \$1,000 dedicated to supporting the production of the event.

Attachments: Staff Report: Greater Victoria Regional Arts Award Funding Request from ProArt Alliance
Appendix A: Letter received from ProArt Alliance of Greater Victoria

6.5 British Columbia Arts Council's Regional Areas Policy

Recommendation: That the Chair of the Arts Commission send letters to the council of the BC Arts Council and to the Minister of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport, outlining the impacts of the "regional areas" policy on artists and arts organizations based in the Capital Region and advocating that these policies are modified so that all artists and arts organizations in the CRD are eligible and prioritized for funding in the same ways as arts organizations from regions of BC.

Attachment: Staff Report: British Columbia Arts Council's Regional Areas Policy

7. New Business

8. Correspondence Thank you letter from Victoria Nikkei Cultural Society

9. Adjournment

Next Meeting: September 25, 2024



Meeting Minutes

Arts Commission

Wednesday, May 22, 2024

4:00 PM

Room 488
625 Fisgard St.
Victoria, BC V8W 1R7

PRESENT

Arts Commission: M. Alto (Chair), P. Brent, D. Cavens, S. Epp, D. Lajeunesse, G. Lemon (EP),
C. Plant (EP), C. Smart

Arts Advisory Council: M. Chan (EP), R. Ditor (EP), S. Donaldson, R. Gale, C. Haska (EP), S. Reid,
J. Smillie (EP), J. Verano (EP)

Staff: N. Chan, C. Gilpin, A. Gibbs, E. Sterling (Recorder)

Regrets: AC: K. Roessingh
AAC: C. Caravaca, W. Greaves, A. Hershberg, E. Mushumanski

EP – Electronic Participation

The meeting was called to order at 4:05 pm.

1. Territorial Acknowledgement

Chair Alto welcomed everyone and invited each participant to introduce themselves for this joint meeting. She then provided a Territorial Acknowledgement, giving thanks for the nations on whose land we work and live, and inviting members to a daily reflection of our relationship to the land and its first peoples.

2. Approval of Agenda

**MOVED by Member Cavens, SECONDED by Member Smart,
That the agenda for the May 22, 2024 Arts Commission meeting be approved.**
CARRIED

3. Adoption of Minutes

**MOVED by Member Cavens, SECONDED by Member Smart
That the minutes of the Arts Commission meeting of March 27, 2024
be adopted as circulated.**
CARRIED

4. Chair's Remarks

Chair Alto noted that it was always a pleasure to be with the Commission and thanked the Arts Advisory Council for their presence at this joint meeting, here today, and in their daily work.

5. Presentations/Delegations - none**6. Commission Business****6.1 Arts Advisory Council (AAC) Chair's Report (verbal)**

J. Verano thanked S. Reid for covering in her and S. Donaldson's absences at the March Arts Commission meeting as chair and funding chair. In April and May, the AAC has been busy adjudicating the Equity, Incubator, and IDEA grants. There have been numerous arts events that we have had the pleasure of attending. Kudos to the staff for getting the work done early for the 2023 Impact report.

6.1.2 Arts Advisory Council Minutes: May 14, 2024 Meeting – received for information

6.1.3 Arts Advisory Council Activities by Council Summary - received for information

6.2 Manager's Report (verbal)

C. Gilpin thanked everyone for attending this joint meeting and highlighted these items:

- We advertised and held an information session for April project grants and we will report back on those at the June meeting.
- At their May 2024 meeting, the CRD Board decided to relaunch the Performing Arts Facilities Select Committee. Previously it did require a lot of his time; it is too soon to know the impact this time around.
- Erin Sterling, the new administrative assistant, is fulltime, whereas Heather Heywood had been working 0.8 FTE, so we can be even more responsive to client inquiries.
- At our June meeting, staff will bring forward the outreach and communications report. In the second half of 2024, a report will come forward that will review of Incubator grants and a potential new capacity-building program. These are both part of the strategic plan and our implementation timeline is on schedule.

6.2.1 Outreach Report – received for information

6.3 Incubator & Equity 2024 Grant Recommendations

C. Gilpin shared the following:

- A team of four adjudicators approached their work using evaluation criteria, the goals of the new strategic plan which includes regional distribution.
- Incubator Grants are meant for organizational development, capacity building, and new arts initiatives.
- Equity Grants are for applicants who face systemic barriers to accessing support and identifies as part of an equity-seeking community.
- Our outreach initiatives have been successful as there were seven new applicants to Equity, and the highest number of applications in the past four years.

S. Donaldson mentioned that the Incubator and Equity grants were adjudicated with the help of an external advisor who brought relevant diverse perspectives. For Incubator grants, one highlight was the application from Timetheft Theatre, which was particularly well received and fully funded. For Equity, a highlight was BC Black History Awareness Society's "Vibes and Verses" project.

Questions arose from members regarding specific applications that did not receive funding. Staff and members of the Arts Advisory Council addressed these questions.

**MOVED by Member Cavens, seconded by Member Lajeunesse,
That the 2024 Incubator Grant recommendations be approved as presented,
and that the 2024 Equity Grant recommendations be approved as presented.
CARRIED**

Motion Arising

**MOVED by Member Plant, seconded by Member Smart,
That staff report back with options for additional feedback to be provided on
grant applications.
CARRIED**

6.4 IDEA 2024 Grant Recommendations

C. Gilpin outlined that IDEA stands for Innovate, Develop, Experiment, and Access. This granting program received 20 applications, the highest number in the past five years, and 10 were new applications, again a good sign of successful promotion and outreach.

S. Donaldson thanked her colleagues on the adjudication team and said that one highlight was a successful application from the Victoria Hospice Society who applied for a palliative care music therapy program.

**MOVED by Member Cavens, SECONDED by Member Lajeunesse,
That the 2024 IDEA Grant recommendations be approved as presented.
CARRIED**

6.5 CRD Arts & Culture: 2023 Impact Report

C. Gilpin mentioned that staff have been creating an Impact Report since 2018, previously each June, and this year we set the goal to prepare it by May. Kudos to Abby Gibbs who is the project lead and gathered all of the information for the report. The presentation highlighted the impact of Equity grants, the strategic plan, and that audiences are back in big numbers. Stories submitted by organizations show the positive impact of the service.

In response to the presentation, the following items came up during discussion:

- Staff intend to mail hard copies to all councils and electoral area directors and email a pdf to every elected official's publicly available email address.
- Chair Alto suggested that, after sending the reports out, we could offer to come to councils to provide information only, not with an ask or expectation.
- Member Plant asked if the chair and staff could do a 10 minute presentation to the CRD Board in June and there was agreement with this.

- The best data we have that shows that people from non-participating regions do benefit from the service comes from reports from the Royal and McPherson Theatre Society about ticket buyers, as well as pre-pandemic data from the Belfry.
- Member Plant asked if we can compel grant recipients to collect data, and Chair Alto said that we could have a larger discussion in June about data collection.
- Member Donaldson shared that, pre-CRD, the Professional Arts Alliance & City of Victoria did exit surveys and solicited information and learned that 44% of the Victoria Symphony audience came from Saanich – and that helped to build the argument for a regional combined service.

**MOVED by Member Lajeunesse, SECONDED by Member Cavens,
The Arts Commission recommends to the CRD Board that staff distribute the
CRD Arts and Culture: 2023 Impact Report virtually through the CRD website
and as physical copies to all councils and electoral area directors to raise
awareness about the positive impact of the Arts and Culture Support Service
throughout the capital region. CARRIED**

Chair Alto suggested adding to the June agenda that when we do the presentation to Board, it would be useful for the Commission to consider whether another road show would be useful. Member Lajeunesse recommended reminding municipal staff of any road show visits so that it makes it onto the agenda.

Member Cavens asked the AAC members present for their input on our granting programs and levels of funding. C. Gilpin recommended increasing budgets in a strategic way according to the strategic plan. When we review current grant programs or propose new ones, it would be a good time to allocate funding in a strategic way.

Chair Alto invited participants to reflect on the two questions from the last slide:

**What from the report stands out as something we should highlight more in our communications?
What trends you are seeing in the impact of CRD arts funding or in the arts sector itself?**

Some responses included:

- highlight the breadth of projects that are being funded
- affirmation that audiences are bouncing back
- N. Chan recommended that in distribution of the report, accompany it with more information about how to join, some of the costs/benefits.
- everyone benefits from a service that only 70% of region funds
- highlight the positive economic impact

C. Gilpin noted that Impact Report stories and quotes will become individual posts on social media. Some councillors offered to connect their communications people with A. Gibbs.

7. New Business

8. Correspondence – two letters of thanks from grant recipients were received.

9. Adjournment

**MOVED by Member Lajeunesse, SECONDED by Member Smart,
That the May 22, 2024 Arts Commission meeting be adjourned at 5:34 pm.**

CARRIED

Chair

Recorder



Capital Regional District

625 Fisgard St.
Victoria, BC V8W 1R7

Meeting Minutes Arts Advisory Council

Tuesday, June 11, 2024

5:00 PM

Via Video Conference

PRESENT

Members: C. Caravaca, R. Ditor, S. Donaldson, R. Gale, C. Haska, A. Hershberg, E. Mushumanski, S. Reid, J. Verano (Chair)

Staff: C. Gilpin, A. Gibbs, E. Sterling (Recorder)

Regrets: M. Chan, W. Greaves, J. Smillie

The meeting was called to order at 5:02 pm.

1. Territorial Acknowledgement

Chair Verano welcomed members and provided a Territorial Acknowledgement. We are grateful to live, work, and create art on these lands.

2. Approval of Agenda

MOVED by R. Gale, SECONDED by C. Haska,

That the agenda for the June 11, 2024 Arts Advisory Council meeting be approved. CARRIED

3. Minutes

3.1 Arts Advisory Council Minutes of May 14, 2024

MOVED by S. Donaldson, SECONDED by S. Reid,

That the March 14, 2024 minutes of the Arts Advisory Council be approved as presented. CARRIED

3.2 Arts Commission Minutes of November 22, 2023; January 24, 2024; and March 27, 2024

were received for information.

4. Chair's Report

Chair Verano extended gratitude to A. Hershberg who is stepping down after today's meeting to pursue further post-secondary education, as well as to C. Caravaca and W. Greaves who will not seek to be reappointed after their current terms end in December. There will be a call for new members – stay tuned for more information. Chair Verano invited feedback around the joint meeting last month with the Arts Commission and possible improvements were discussed.

5. Manager's Report

C. Gilpin reported on the following:

- The Performing Arts Facilities Select Committee has been launched and it will take a significant amount of staff time. Terms of Reference are going to the CRD Board tomorrow.
- The CRD Arts Impact Report is also on the agenda of the CRD Board meeting.
- He attended the BC Tri-Level meeting of funders last Friday. He is strongly advocating for the interests of the CRD at that table. The federal government is phasing in a 2.7% funding reduction over three years, but the Canada Council has promised not to reduce core funding or project funding.

6. 2024 April Project Grant Recommendations

MOVED by S. Donaldson, SECONDED by R. Gale,

The Arts Advisory Council recommends to the Arts Commission:

That the 2024 April Project Grant recommendations be approved as presented.

CARRIED

7. Capacity-Building Program & Review of Incubator Grant

C. Gilpin went through the key points of the discussion paper. There is no recommendation from staff – we are seeking feedback. In discussion, the following points were made:

- Specificity goes a long way – need to be clear about what is included under the heading of “capacity building” and what is not.
- We will pilot in 2025 – a slow launch that will enable us to learn as we go. It will be helpful to have a year of intake to show to prospective partners, i.e. these are the folks we can better help with additional funding.
- Mentoring and sectoral collaboration would be prioritized.
- Capacity grants in other jurisdictions are often multi-year grants. If there was an opportunity to apply for a two-year funding cycle, that would be ideal. Application to include lots of metrics to do comparison.
- First Peoples’ Cultural Council has an “Arts Infrastructure Program” that could be a good model, and the Council is a prospective partner.
- Next steps will be targeted consultation with the arts sector and then bringing forward a repositioned granting program to the Arts Commission in fall 2024.

8. ABCs (Activity by Council Summary) – received for information.

9. Correspondence – none received.

10. Adjournment

The June 11, 2024 Arts Advisory Council meeting adjourned at 6:03 pm by consensus.

Chair

Recorder

Arts Advisory Council Meeting: Tuesday, June 11, 2024 – ABCs

AAC members recently attended the following events in the region:

Bad Hoo Record Release

Ballet Victoria: Swan Lake

Belfry Theatre: The Lehman Trilogy
Victoria One Act Play Festival 2024

Cook Street Block Party

Esquimalt Secondary School: Mean Girls

John Capitano opening at Merrick Gallery

Fired Up! 40th anniversary ceramics exhibition in Metchosin

Intrepid theatre: Malunderstood

Metro: Epidermus Circus by Ingrid Hansen
Black & Rural by Pi Theatre

Monkey C interactive: Monkey C Arcade opening

South Vancouver Island Potters Guild exhibition in Saanich

St. Michaels University School: For Elise (original full-length play by Julian Gale)
Senior School Band Concert (Farquhar Auditorium)
Senior School Creative Arts Banquet
Senior School Mixed Concert (Farquhar)
Underground (SMUS Choir)

The Choirs YYJ: Spring Concert (Farquhar)

PechaKucha Vol. 20 (The Vic Theatre)

Royal Bay Secondary School: The Magician's Nephew

TEDxVictoria: "It's Up to Us" (McPherson Playhouse)

Victoria Arts Council: Art Victoria Now juried group exhibition

Victorious Voices Youth Poetry Slam Festival (Victoria Event Centre)

Victoria Jazzfest: Booker T. Stax Revue, Blue Moon Marquee, Lakecia Benjamin

And out of town:

Vancouver:

"Into the Rabbit Hole," DesignThinkers 2024 Conference

Minneapolis:

Children's Theatre Company: Alice in Wonderland and BabbleLab

+Minneapolis StorySlam: The Moth

Mixed Blood Theatre: The Most Spectacularly Lamentable Trial of Miz Martha Washington

(see over)

Berlin:

Berliner Ensemble: The Threepenny Opera

Berlin Staatsopera: The Magic Flute (Yuval Sharon production)

Graz National Theatre Production at the Deutsches Theater: Bunbury (The Importance of Being Earnest)

GRIPS Theater: Linie 1

Galleries/Exhibitions:

Boros Collection East Side Gallery Gedenkstätte Berliner Mauer

Gemäldegalerie Hamburger Bahnhof Holocaust Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe

Jewish Museum KW Institute for Contemporary Art

Neue Nationalgalerie Parlament der Baume

London:

Tina Turner the Musical

Cabaret at the Kit Kat Club

Plus: several shows on the Celebrity Apex - Norwegian Fjords Cruise

OUTREACH REPORT
Arts Commission Meeting, June 26, 2024

The following is a short summary of the outreach initiatives undertaken since the last Arts Commission meeting on May 22nd:

2024 – 2027 Communications & Outreach Plan

- Completed and ready for review

2023 Impact Report Launch

- Included in the June 12th CRD Board meeting consent agenda; physical copies distributed at the meeting
- Published on CRD website
- Featured in CRD Arts & Culture e-newsletter and social media posts
- Outreach to participating jurisdiction's communication staff to distribute hard copies at offices, amplify on social media, include on websites, and feature in newsletters
- Digital copies emailed with cover letters directly to each member of municipal councils and EA directors; physical copies available upon request

Spring 2024 E-Newsletter

- Included: 2023 Impact Report
- Sent out to our 834 Subscribers (up 1 since January)
- 442 emails opened (53% open rate)
- 68 link clicks (8% click rate)



Making a difference...together

REPORT TO ARTS ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING OF TUESDAY, JUNE 11, 2024

SUBJECT April 2024 Project Grants Recommendations

ISSUE SUMMARY

The adjudication committee for the April 2024 Project Grants program has completed its work and made its recommendations for approval by the Arts Advisory Council and Arts Commission.

BACKGROUND

As per Bylaw No. 2973, the Arts Advisory Council is responsible for adjudicating funding programs for the Arts and Culture Support Service. Section 5 of the Bylaw states: “The Council shall act as an arm’s length adjudicating body for the Arts Development Funding Programs¹.” The Arts Advisory Council fulfills this role through its adjudication committees, which are composed of Council members and, if necessary, external appointees to the adjudication committee who bring perspectives or expertise that meet certain adjudication needs.

The Projects, Series & Extended Programming Grants (commonly known as “Project Grants”) provide support for organizations to produce or present one-time projects, a short series of events, or extended programming taking place over 12 months or less.

At the April 2024 deadline for Project Grants, 20 applications were received, in line with the average for the April intake (see Table 1). No applications were ruled ineligible by staff. The total request from eligible applications of \$203,838 was in line with the average for the April intake. 16 grants were awarded. The applicant success rate of 80% is in line with the average for the April intake.

Table 1. Project Grants: Recent Funding History

Year	Intake	# Eligible Applications	# Awards	Success Rate	Total Request	Total Awarded	Median Request	Median Award
2020	Jan	39	25	64%	\$338,682	\$125,500	\$7,000	\$4,000
2020	Apr	22	20	91%	\$167,095	\$104,500	\$7,000	\$5,250
2021	Jan	17	14	82%	\$154,700	\$120,000	\$10,000	\$7,725
2021	Apr	21	17	81%	\$199,210	\$120,000	\$8,200	\$7,000
2022	Jan	27	18	67%	\$259,732	\$120,000	\$10,000	\$6,600
2022	Apr	36	22	61%	\$285,212	\$120,000	\$7,807	\$5,000
2023	Jan	28	20	71%	\$231,335	\$140,000	\$8,150	\$6,513
2023	Apr	21	20	95%	\$196,552	\$142,400	\$9,300	\$8,000
2024	Jan	35	23	65%	\$317,211	\$140,000	\$8,000	\$6,000
2024	Apr	20	16	80%	\$203,838	\$140,000	\$10,000	\$9,450

An adjudication committee of three Council members met in June 2024 to consider 20 applications. The adjudicators’ scores were averaged in a comparative assessment of each organization’s proposal. Applications were discussed to ensure the scores reflected the information provided.

¹ The Arts and Culture Support Service was originally known as the Arts Development Service.

The adjudicators assessed and scored each of the applications using a matrix that reflects the desired outcomes of the program in the areas of:

- payment of artists
- the benefit to the art form and to the arts in the region
- knowledge of the target audience
- accessibility (physical, financial, cultural, and other)
- benefits to the community, including to equity-seeking groups and underrepresented arts and cultural practices
- reasonableness of the budget and of projected expenses and revenues

The scoring methodology provided a comparative assessment of the merits of each proposal relative to the program’s published goals and intended outcomes. The adjudication committee also considered factors related to regional distribution of arts funding and organizational niche in the arts ecosystem.

16 applications are recommended for funding. Four applications are not recommended for funding (see Appendix A for more details).

ALTERNATIVES

Alternative 1

The Arts Advisory Council recommends to the Arts Commission:
That the April 2024 Project Grants recommendations be approved as presented.

Alternative 2

That this report be referred to staff for additional information.

IMPLICATIONS

Financial Implications

Ratification and approval of these recommendations will allocate \$140,000 to the 2024 Project Grants program, which is equal to the amount in the preliminary 2024 budget for this intake (see Table 2).

Organizations that have applied to Operating Grants have been notified about their funding amount as approved by the Arts Commission at its meeting in January 2024. Operating Grant recipients that requested advances on their grant were paid in April. The majority of Operating Grants will be paid immediately following August 1, when the CRD receives its annual allocation of tax revenue.

Table 2. Update on Arts Granting Budget for the CRD Arts and Culture Support Service

Granting Program	2024 Budget	2024 Allocated	2024 Paid Out
Operating Grants	\$2,360,363	\$2,360,363	\$232,734
Project Grants	\$280,000	\$280,000	\$140,000
Equity Grants	\$50,000	\$51,150	\$51,150
Incubator Grants	\$15,000	\$8,500	\$8,500
IDEA Grants	\$33,000	\$38,350	\$38,350
Total	\$2,738,363	\$2,738,363	\$470,734

Service Delivery Implications

On September 27, 2023, the Arts Commission passed a motion that “eligibility for Projects Grants be changed so that unsuccessful applicants to the first intake have the option to apply to the second intake with the same project or a new project,” as well as a separate motion that “staff report back to the Art Commission with the results of this policy change, after both project grant adjudications in 2024.”

The program guidelines for 2024 Projects Grants were modified to reflect this policy change and to notify applicants that: “Organizations that apply to CRD Projects Grants at the January deadline and are not successful may apply again at the April deadline.”

At the January 2024 intake of Projects Grants, twelve applicants were not successful. Of those, there were three applicants who reapplied or had also applied to another program:

- Oak Bay Community Artists: applied in both Projects intakes and were unsuccessful in both.
- The Other Guise: applied in both Projects intakes and were successful in the April intake.
- Vancouver Island Visual Arts Society (VIVAS): applied to January Projects Grants and was unsuccessful and also applied to Incubator Grants where they were successful. Organizations may apply to multiple grant programs but can only receive one grant per year. If VIVAS had been successful at the January Projects Grants intake, then their application to Incubator Grants would have been withdrawn.

Overall, the change in policy resulted in two additional applications to the April Project Grants intake, one of which was successful. There are multiple factors that affect the number of applications per intake and the evaluation of individual applications. Also, there is a high variance in number of applications per intake from year to year. One annual cycle does not provide enough data to draw conclusions with any significant degree of certainty. Staff will continue to monitor re-applications due to this policy and report back each year with any emerging trends or significant implications.

CONCLUSION

The adjudication committee has assessed 20 applications received at the April 2024 Project Grants deadline. The 16 projects recommended for a grant will fulfil the Arts & Culture Support Service’s purpose to provide benefits to the community through its funding programs and will support a range of organizations to produce arts programming for audiences in the capital region.

RECOMMENDATION

The Arts Advisory Council recommends to the Arts Commission:
That the April 2024 Project Grants recommendations be approved as presented.

Submitted by:	Chris Gilpin, MPA, Manager, Arts & Culture Support Service
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ATTACHMENT(S)

Appendix A: April 2024 Project Grants Recommendations and Summaries

	Org's Location:	Organization	Project category:	REQUEST	GRANT Recm'd
	Victoria	Blue Bridge Theatre Society	OT	\$12,000	\$0
	Saanich	Broken Rhythms Victoria Society	OT	\$10,500	\$10,500
NEW	Oak Bay	Canadian Heritage Arts Society	SS	\$5,000	\$0
	Victoria	Capriccio Vocal Ensemble Society	SS	\$17,000	\$0
	Victoria	Embrace Arts Foundation	OT	\$8,000	\$8,000
	Esquimalt	Esquimalt Community Arts Hub	EXT	\$10,000	\$10,000
	SGI	Galiano Island Literary Festival Society	OT	\$10,000	\$9,400
	Metchosin	Metchosin Arts & Cultural Centre	EXT	\$10,570	\$10,570
	Victoria	Ministry of Casual Living Association	EXT	\$10,000	\$10,000
	Oak Bay	Oak Bay Community Artists Society	OT	\$7,500	\$0
NEW	Victoria	Salty Broad Productions	OT	\$10,000	\$10,000
	Oak Bay	Sing Your Joy Young Adult Chorus	OT	\$9,500	\$9,500
	Sooke	Sooke Community Choir	EXT	\$2,500	\$2,500
	Sooke	Sooke Festival Society	OT	\$8,550	\$8,550
	Victoria	The Other Guys (Guise) Theatre	OT	\$12,000	\$6,012
	Victoria	Victoria Philharmonic Choir Society	SS	\$18,000	\$9,000
	Victoria	Victoria Poetry Project Society	EXT	\$8,500	\$8,500
NEW	Victoria	Victoria Quilters' Guild	OT	\$1,218	\$1,218
	Metchosin	William Head on Stage Theatre	OT	\$23,000	\$16,250
	Victoria	XChanges Gallery and Studios	EXT	\$10,000	\$10,000

Totals: \$203,838 \$140,000

April 2024 Project Grant - Recommendation Summary

Organization: Blue Bridge Theatre Society

Org Location: Victoria

Project: Wind in the Willows - the radio play

Start Date: Aug 12, 2024 **End date:** Aug 17, 2024

Event Location: Victoria

REQUEST	GRANT Recm'd
12,000	0

Project category: OT

Previous Funding:

May 2015, \$5000 (AC discretionary); Jan 2016, \$10,000, Jan 2017 \$0 (\$8,000 AAC rec'md was not approved by AC); April 2017, \$11,250; Jan 2018, \$5,000; May 2018, \$0; Jan 2020, \$0; April 2020, \$0; Jan 2021, \$7500; Jan 2022, \$7500; Sept 2022 OP App, \$0; Jan 2023, \$9600

Mandate

Blue Bridge Theatre Society - BBTS (aka Blue Bridge Repertory Theatre) is a Victoria, BC based, incorporated, professional, non-profit theatre society that fosters community spirit and cultural awareness through play production and workshops.

Project Summary

Kenneth Grahame's 1908 novel *Wind In The Willows* is widely considered one of the classics of world literature. Adapted by noted English actor and playwright Alan Bennett as both a stage and radio play in the 1990's, this version has gone on to thrill family audiences worldwide since its premiere. Utilizing 15 actors to play the dozens of characters in the novel, this two hour radio play version is unique in that it is able to traverse the interests of, and engage the imaginations of, an audience ranging from children to seniors. Blue Bridge's version will take place on the patio and pond area of the University of Victoria's University Club.

Notes for Committee Report

The average score of this application placed it in the four lowest-scoring applications of this intake. It scored below a satisfactory level in multiple assessment categories, including contribution to development of the arts, approach to accessibility, community benefits, benefits for equity-seeking communities, and project budget evaluation. It is not recommended for support at this time.

April 2024 Project Grant - Recommendation Summary

Organization: Broken Rhythms Victoria Society

Org Location: Saanich

Project: On Hold

Start Date: Mar 01, 2025 **End date:** Apr 30, 2025

Event Location: Victoria

REQUEST

**GRANT
Recm'd**

Project category: OT

10,500

10,500

Previous Funding:

May 2016, \$5,500; April 2017, \$7500; May 2018, \$7350; May 2019, \$10,000; April 2020, \$7,500; Apr 2021, \$10,000; Apr 2022, \$9,000; Apr 2023, \$5000

Mandate

- To create a society in Victoria, BC, in which dancers are able to study, work and perform
- To be outspoken advocates for women and gender nonconforming dancers
- To be involved in community events and collaborate with multidisciplinary artists and art forms supporting both the arts and overall local and rural arts communities
- To make dance accessible to the broader community by making it affordable and by incorporating story lines that are relatable, current and reflect the human condition
- To showcase the unique style of Rhythmical Contemporary – A style that combines and celebrates contemporary and jazz and recognizes the history and importance of these dance styles

Project Summary

'On Hold', is a new hour long Rhythmical Contemporary work featuring 5 dancers that will premiere March/April 2025 at the McPherson Playhouse.

'On Hold', will also include many programmes that have been implemented into the Broken Rhythms creation/community development structure. This includes guest performers to open the the show, mentorship programmes, community showings that follow the work and accessible shows in which Broken Rhythms tours to schools and shows the work that are then proceeded by a guided talk back.

Notes for Committee Report

This application scored above the level required to fulfill the goals and intended outcomes of the Project Grant program. It ranked in the top cohort of applications received at this granting intake. The recommendation is for the full amount of the grant request.

April 2024 Project Grant - Recommendation Summary

Organization: Canadian Heritage Arts Society

Org Location: Oak Bay

Project: Harmony in Winter: A Multicultural Celebration

Start Date: Nov 01, 2024 **End date:** Dec 31, 2024

Event Location: Various

REQUEST

**GRANT
Recm'd**

Project category: SS

5,000

0

Previous Funding:

Mandate

The society's name is the Canadian Heritage Arts Society (CHAS). CHAS has two distinct purposes separately outlined in the constitution, one of which is community outreach programs to preserve and promote arts and culture and increase public appreciation of the performing arts. The other is education and training through ownership of the Canadian College of Performing Arts via its three accredited post-secondary programs.

Project Summary

Harmony in Winter: A Multicultural Music Celebration is an event offered at no or significantly discounted cost to community audiences in the CRD in November and December 2024. Through a limited series of concerts, it aims to foster unity and strengthen community through music and inclusivity. Produced by The Canadian Heritage Arts Society (CHAS), it seeks to modernize traditional December caroling concerts by incorporating values of equity and diversity.

The concert theme, centered on winter and light, poignantly reflects the universal significance of these elements across diverse cultures, symbolizing hope, warmth, and renewal amidst the season's darkness. CHAS will hire and provide this theme to professional artists from diverse backgrounds, who will then select culturally appropriate programming and create a concert reflecting diversity and community within the CRD.

Notes for Committee Report

The average score of this application placed it in the four lowest-scoring applications of this intake. It scored below a satisfactory level in the assessment categories of identification of skilled personnel. It is not recommended for support at this time.

April 2024 Project Grant - Recommendation Summary

Organization: Capriccio Vocal Ensemble Society

Org Location: Victoria

Project: Capriccio Vocal Ensemble 2024-2025 Season

Start Date: Nov 11, 2024 **End date:** May 10, 2025

Event Location: Victoria

REQUEST

**GRANT
Recm'd**

17,000

0

Project category: SS

Previous Funding:

Jan 2008, \$4,000; Jan 2009, \$4,000; Jan 2010, \$3000; Jan 2011, \$4,000; Jan 2012, \$2,000; Jan 2013, \$2000; Jan 2014, \$3000; Jan 2015, \$4000; Jan 2016, \$2,000; Jan 2017, \$2000; Jan 2018, \$3,000; Jan 2019, \$2,750; Jan 2020, \$1500; Jan 2022, \$0; Apr 2022, \$1,850

Mandate

Capriccio is an acclaimed, multi-voice vocal ensemble of 30-40 members who love to sing. Our mandate is to perform, and enable the enjoyment of, outstanding public programming in the choral arts.

Capriccio is dedicated to performing the finest choral music, and we attract talented adults and young adults of all vocal ranges from our Capital Region. We sing a wide variety of music ranging from before the 15th Century to the present, from intricate unaccompanied works to large choral/orchestral productions, all performed in Capriccio's signature style of virtuosic clarity with a sensitive, compelling spirit.

Project Summary

Nov. 11, 2024 concert - It is 35 years since Capriccio's first concert on Remembrance Day in 1989. Our songs pay tribute to those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom.

Dec. 23,, 2024 concert - We are thrilled to once again share in the cherished musical traditions of Christmas alongside our esteemed musical guests and dear friends. Accompanied by a string quartet and 2 soloists.

May 10, 2025 concert - Elevating the voices of BIPOC women. Works created by local, regional, national, and international women composers - Black, Indigenous, and People of Colour. Accompanied by 2 soloists and a 10 piece instrumental ensemble.

Notes for Committee Report

The average score of this application placed it in the four lowest-scoring applications of this intake. It scored below a satisfactory level in multiple assessment categories, including contribution to development of the arts, identification of skilled personnel, approach to accessibility, community benefits, and project budget evaluation. Overall, the application lacked sufficient detail and clarity to conduct the necessary due diligence on the proposal. It is not recommended for support at this time.

April 2024 Project Grant - Recommendation Summary

Organization: Embrace Arts Foundation

Org Location: Victoria

Project: Hyperfixation Station

Start Date: Sep 01, 2024 **End date:** Apr 30, 2025

Event Location: Victoria

REQUEST

**GRANT
Recm'd**

Project category: OT

8,000

8,000

Previous Funding:

Jan 2018, \$9500; April 2020, \$9,340; Apr 2021, \$6425; Apr 2022, \$7,600; Apr 2023, \$9250

Mandate

Embrace's core mission is to create meaningful artistic opportunities for individuals of all abilities.

As per Embrace's bylaws, the specific objectives and purpose of Embrace are:

- A. To advance the public's access to and appreciation of the arts by providing high-quality artistic performances in public venues.
- B. To advance arts education by:
 - providing classes and workshops on topics related to dance, music, theatre, and visual arts to individuals of all abilities;
 - providing instructional adaptive dance, music, theatre, and visual arts programs to disabled individuals;
 - providing structured mentorship opportunities on topics related to arts for disabled artists.
- C. To promote the ongoing development of inclusion and accessibility in the arts through programming and public education initiatives.
- D. To do all such things as are incidental or ancillary to the attainment of the above purposes.

Project Summary

We are applying for funding for the development and presentation of a new interactive piece called *Hyperfixation Station*. *Hyperfixation Station* is a disability led, multidisciplinary celebration of special interests. This journey into neurodivergent joy will include storytelling, dance, puppetry, and music, as well as a community created visual arts exhibition.

Notes for Committee Report

This application scored above the level required to fulfill the goals and intended outcomes of the Project Grant program. It ranked in the top cohort of applications received at this granting intake. The recommendation is for the full amount of the grant request.

April 2024 Project Grant - Recommendation Summary

Organization: Esquimalt Community Arts Hub Society

Org Location: Esquimalt

Project: East West Mural Fest, Queer Grievances

Start Date: Aug 18, 2024 **End date:** Jun 30, 2025

Event Location: Esquimalt, Victoria

REQUEST

GRANT
Recm'd

Project category: EXT

10,000

10,000

Previous Funding:

April 2021, \$9000; Jan 2022, \$0; Apr 2022, \$7500; Jan 2023, \$5625

Mandate

The Esquimalt Community Arts Hub promotes the visual arts and visual artists working and living within the Township of Esquimalt and surrounding areas.

Our main organizational goals are to (1) advance public appreciation of public art; (2) provide low-barrier and inclusive multidisciplinary public arts programming for diverse audiences and; (3) serve as an artist and emerging arts administrator incubator, training provider, and mentorship resource.

Project Summary

The award-winning 4th annual East West Mural Fest is a 16-day celebration of public art and placemaking from August 18 - September 2, 2024 in Esquimalt and Vic West. As Vancouver Island's only annual mural festival and Canada's largest graffiti jam, the event is a unique and massive celebration of visual art in our communities.

"Queer Grievances" is a multidisciplinary visual and experiential project. Themed around FeministKillJoys' "complaint as a Queer Method", the project explores the act of airing grievances as a healing art-making process.

Notes for Committee Report

This application scored above the level required to fulfill the goals and intended outcomes of the Project Grant program. It ranked in the top cohort of applications received at this granting intake. The recommendation is for the full amount of the grant request.

April 2024 Project Grant - Recommendation Summary

Organization: Galiano Island Literary Festival Society

Org Location: SGI

Project: Islanders: Portraits of Galiano's First People

Start Date: Aug 23, 2024 **End date:** Sep 30, 2024

	REQUEST	GRANT Recm'd
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Event Location: SGI

	10,000	9,400
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Project category: OT

Previous Funding:

2023, \$8000

Mandate

The mission of Galiano Literary Festival celebrates the voices of emerging and established writers through an annual literary festival and related programming. GLF seeks to support and foster connections between artists and communities through literary and educational events which showcase a diverse range of perspectives and backgrounds.

GLF events and programs will be grounded in our unique island community.

Galiano Island Literary Festival promotes and celebrates the work of local artists and abroad through yearly literary programming.

Galiano Island Literary Festival celebrates the island community.

Project Summary

"Islanders: Portraits of Galiano's First People" is an arts and cultural initiative aimed at celebrating and preserving the unique heritage of the Galiano Island Indigenous community. Through a series of cultural gatherings, interviews, portrait sessions, exhibition, and workshops, this project seeks to collect stories and portraits, to document histories, share innate knowledge, and to acknowledge contributions of the Island's First Peoples.

Notes for Committee Report

This application scored above the level required to fulfill the goals and intended outcomes of the Project Grant program. It ranked in the top cohort of applications received at this granting intake. The recommendation is for the full amount of the grant request. The award amount has been scaled to reflect the eligible expenses portion of the grant request.

April 2024 Project Grant - Recommendation Summary

Organization: Metchosin Arts & Cultural Centre Association

Org Location: Metchosin

Project: Metchosin Ocean Art

Start Date: Aug 01, 2024 **End date:** Jul 01, 2025

Event Location: Metchosin

REQUEST

**GRANT
Recm'd**

Project category: EXT

10,570

10,570

Previous Funding:

Jan 2012, \$5,000; May 2018, \$0; Jan 2019, \$3,500; April 2020, \$2,160 (grant returned); April 2021, \$9000

Mandate

Our mandate is

- a) to provide suitable facilities and programs for the arts and culture
- b) to provide display, exhibit, administrative and retail space for the promotion of arts and culture
- c) to provide educational opportunities through workshops, lectures, and hands-on activities.

Project Summary

We seek support for the Metchosin Ocean Arts Cultural Events and Art Parade. From August 1, 2024, to July 1, 2025, we merge art, community, and ecology through a series of exhibitions, walks, and participatory creation events.

The program includes an August 2024 start-up event, November 2024 participation project, and December 2024 exhibition at Metchosin ArtPod Gallery + Joy Waves Parade throughout MACCA property complex.

In 2025, an April 20th Earth Day public event to create ocean-inspired series of multimedia artworks, a June 8th World Ocean Day featuring exhibitions & performances, and a July 1st Canada Day exhibition featuring a sculptural ocean artwork installation at the MACC, and the Metchosin Ocean Art Parade.

Notes for Committee Report

This application scored above the level required to fulfill the goals and intended outcomes of the Project Grant program. It ranked in the top cohort of applications received at this granting intake. The recommendation is for the full amount of the grant request.

April 2024 Project Grant - Recommendation Summary

Organization: Ministry of Casual Living Association

Org Location: Victoria

Project: 2024-2025 Extended Programming

Start Date: Jul 01, 2024 **End date:** Jun 30, 2025

Event Location: Victoria

REQUEST

GRANT
Recm'd

Project category: EXT

10,000

10,000

Previous Funding:

January 2005, \$1600; May 2007, \$1000; Jan 2010, \$1700; Jan 2011, \$3,000; Jan 2013, \$0; May 2013, \$0; May 2014, \$3,000; May 2015, \$0; Jan 2016, \$2,000; Jan 2017, \$2000; May 2018, \$3000; May 2019, \$4,000; April 2020, \$7,000; Apr 2021, \$7000; Apr 2022, \$0; Apr 2023, \$12,000

Mandate

The Ministry of Casual Living (MoCL) is an artist-run centre based in Victoria. Established in 2002 to provide artists from all disciplines with an accessible venue for experimentation, MoCL is committed to promoting critical, self-reflective discourse, and integrating the artistic process into all aspects of everyday life.

MoCL is committed to supporting diversity, inclusion, and purposeful programming for artists from the LGBTQ2S+, persons with disabilities, and the IBPOC communities.

Project Summary

Studio Gallery Exhibition Program will present a series of group and individual artists exhibitions that exercise our mandate to provide artists from all disciplines with a venue for experimentation, production, and presentation, and provide artist fees, installation support, and promotions.

Program Coordinator part time contract working with the Board of Directors to conduct program research, conceptualization, logistics and evaluation of our Studio Gallery programs. Program administration, including artists' contracts, budgeting, promotional writing and design, installation, documentation and web and social media are key elements of this position.

Notes for Committee Report

This application scored above the level required to fulfill the goals and intended outcomes of the Project Grant program. It ranked in the top cohort of applications received at this granting intake. The recommendation is for the full amount of the grant request.

April 2024 Project Grant - Recommendation Summary

Organization: Oak Bay Community Artists Society

Org Location: Oak Bay

Project: Public Art - Off the Avenue - Walkway Murals

Start Date: Sep 01, 2024 **End date:** Jun 30, 2025

Event Location: Oak Bay

REQUEST

**GRANT
Recm'd**

7,500

0

Project category: OT

Previous Funding:

Jan 2006, \$1000; Jan 2007, \$0; May 2011, \$2000; May 2018, \$8000

Mandate

To encourage and support new and established artists in Oak Bay in promoting visual arts awareness in the Capital Regional District. We create opportunities for our members, as well as guest and celebrity artists, to exhibit work locally and regionally through art events and projects in the community.

Project Summary

To mark the 20th anniversary of the Oak Bay Community Artists Society, two BC Hydro boxes and one Oak Bay municipal power box will be wrapped with a collaborative mural which contains the artworks of up to 16 Oak Bay visual artists. In the style of the "exquisite corpse," artists will collaborate on the murals for the boxes.

Notes for Committee Report

The average score of this application placed it in the four lowest-scoring applications of this intake. It scored below a satisfactory level in multiple assessment categories, including identification of skilled personnel, approach to accessibility, and benefits for equity-seeking communities. It is not recommended for support at this time.

April 2024 Project Grant - Recommendation Summary

Organization: Salty Broad Productions

Org Location: Victoria

Project: Hail Santa: A Salty Broadmas Holiday Spectacular!

Start Date: Nov 15, 2024 **End date:** Dec 21, 2024

REQUEST	GRANT Recm'd
10,000	10,000

Event Location: Victoria

Project category: OT

Previous Funding:

Mandate

To create immersive, experimental theatre experiences in Victoria, BC. The society hopes to cultivate the creation of original performance art, as well as reinvent established works from a fresh perspective. Salty Broad's events and productions are primarily female and queer driven artistic endeavors that aim to support local emerging artists.

(Please note we are currently in the process of updating this mandate, as it was first established in 2018. Updates will encompass updating language from "female" to "feminist" in an effort to better reflect our current practices and values surrounding inclusivity and community).

Project Summary

We are seeking support for "Hail Santa: A Salty Broadmas Holiday Spectacular!" - an interactive holiday theatre show inspired by "The Carol Burnett Show," "The Muppet Show," and "The Star Wars Holiday Special." It features a scripted musical cabaret with a commitment to providing paid opportunities for local artists, with a particular focus on providing opportunities for local BIPOC, LGBTQIA2S+, disabled, neurodivergent, and other underserved communities. The event will also include audience participation through mini-games, singalongs, dance-alongs, costume contests, and challenges, blending campy humor with heartfelt moments. In the weeks leading up to the show, we will host a musical theatre workshop, with participants invited to join an audience flashmob during "Hail Santa."

Notes for Committee Report

This application scored above the level required to fulfill the goals and intended outcomes of the Project Grant program. It ranked in the top cohort of applications received at this granting intake. The recommendation is for the full amount of the grant request.

April 2024 Project Grant - Recommendation Summary

Organization: Sing Your Joy Young Adult Chorus Society

Org Location: Oak Bay

Project: Fostering Diversity in Choral Repertoire

Start Date: Jul 01, 2024 **End date:** Apr 30, 2025

Event Location: Oak Bay

REQUEST

**GRANT
Recm'd**

Project category: OT

9,500

9,500

Previous Funding:

May 2018, \$0; May 2019, \$3,850; Apr 2023, \$3500

Mandate

SingYourJoy is Greater Victoria's only non-auditioned, accessible, no-cost performing chorus for youth and young adults ages 16-29. Our purposes are:

to provide a supportive musical community for young people who might face financial and social challenges in other community choral groups,

to perform a broad repertoire of contemporary music for community audiences, and

to promote life-long musical appreciation for young people after they leave high school.

Chorus members and directors covenant with each other to promote mutual tolerance, inclusion and respect in order to foster diversity, and to strengthen choir members' artistic capacity regardless of their starting point.

Project Summary

This project will support the creation, workshopping and accessible public performance of a new choral piece suitable for young adult or community choirs, by an accomplished Canadian composer of either Muslim or Indigenous heritage. Upon confirmation of funding, SingYourJoy will commission this new choral work with one of two candidate composers, depending on their availability, and then in the winter months of 2024-25 we will workshop the new piece with the choir and composer, rehearsing in preparation for a world premiere before a community audience in a high-quality local venue in April 2025. We will record the performance and use the video product to promote this new work on our social media and within the BC choral community.

Notes for Committee Report

This application scored above the level required to fulfill the goals and intended outcomes of the Project Grant program. It ranked in the top cohort of applications received at this granting intake. The recommendation is for the full amount of the grant request.

April 2024 Project Grant - Recommendation Summary

Organization: Sooke Community Choir

Org Location: Sooke

Project: Sooke Community Choir Concerts

Start Date: Sep 01, 2024 **End date:** May 31, 2025

Event Location: Sooke

REQUEST

**GRANT
Recm'd**

Project category: EXT

2,500

2,500

Previous Funding:

Jan 2019, \$2000; Jan 2020, \$0; Apr 2023, \$2075

Mandate

The purpose of the society is to promote, develop and enhance the artistic life of the community through music in a welcoming and inclusive environment.

Project Summary

The Sooke Community Choir was established in 1989 to provide choral entertainment for our community. We sing for the pure joy and pleasure it gives us in an atmosphere that is fun, relaxed, inclusive and accepting.

The Sooke Community Choir offers two sessions each year: September to December and January to May. Our Musical Leadership Team: conductor, voice coach and pianist are all professional musicians in Sooke. We feel so fortunate to be supported, while gently challenged, by these talented women. Rehearsals are held at Holy Trinity Anglican Church on Tuesday evenings from 7 to 9 pm. This space is not only beautiful but easily accessed.

Notes for Committee Report

This application scored above the level required to fulfill the goals and intended outcomes of the Project Grant program. It ranked in the top cohort of applications received at this granting intake. The recommendation is for the full amount of the grant request.

April 2024 Project Grant - Recommendation Summary

Organization: Sooke Festival Society

Org Location: Sooke

Project: Sooke Music and Art Festival

Start Date: Jul 13, 2024 **End date:** Aug 11, 2024

Event Location: Sooke

REQUEST

**GRANT
Recm'd**

Project category: OT

8,550

8,550

Previous Funding:

May 2019, \$1,500

Mandate

We are local, we support local arts.

Project Summary

The Sooke music and art festival is a free to attend, family friendly event held in the heart of Sooke each summer. This summer will be our 9th edition. We are presenting music and art on Aug 9th, 10th and 11th. As well, we are presenting a pre-show on July 13, 2024.

Notes for Committee Report

This application scored above the level required to fulfill the goals and intended outcomes of the Project Grant program. It ranked in the top cohort of applications received at this granting intake. The recommendation is for the full amount of the grant request.

April 2024 Project Grant - Recommendation Summary

Organization: The Other Guys (Guise) Theatre Company

Org Location: Victoria

Project: Labyrinth

Start Date: Jul 02, 2024 End date: Sep 30, 2024

Event Location: Victoria

REQUEST

GRANT
Recm'd

Project category: OT

12,000

6,012

Previous Funding:

June 2000, \$1550; June 2001, \$2000; Jan 2002, \$2500; May 2003, \$7500; May 2004, \$5000; Jan 2006 \$7500 deferred to May 2006; May 2007, \$7500; May 2008, \$4000; Jan 2010, \$7000; Jan 2011, \$4,000; Jan 2012, \$7,000; Jan 2013, \$8,000; May 2014, \$12,000; May 2015, \$12,000; April 2017, \$11,250; May 2018, \$10,000; May 2019, \$0; April 2020, \$8,000; Apr 2023, \$10,000

Mandate

Other Guise is committed to developing theatrical presentations which reflect the history and culture of our community, and to supporting the livelihoods of Vancouver Island professionals; established and emerging artists alike.

Other Guise is a community-motivated theatre company that makes world-class productions that often tour internationally.

Other Guise serves a wide range of artist and audiences of the Pacific Northwest by nurturing productions and propelling careers, and by finding, renovating and operating shared performance spaces.

Project Summary

Labyrinth is a large-scale, follow-the-path show. Entering one at a time, audience pass by incredible visual art pieces, interacting and conversing with performers who have intimate personal conversations unique to each guest. They encounter music and moments of solitude. There are periods of reflection and areas of the path teeming with sound art or video installations. As the individual continues, they discover they are the lead character in a story full of hope.

The walls are theatrical flats, open to the ceiling half the time, with overhead archways and tunnels throughout. Set in a large storefront, the path gently meanders through a labyrinth and concludes at a meeting place with party vibes.

Notes for Committee Report

This application scored above the level required to fulfill the goals and intended outcomes of the Project Grant program. The recommendation is for funding support at an amount lower than their full request based on similar reductions to other applicants that scored in the same tier.

April 2024 Project Grant - Recommendation Summary

Organization: Victoria Philharmonic Choir Society

Org Location: Victoria

Project: Series - VPC 2024/25 3 Concerts

Start Date: Sep 01, 2024 End date: Mar 30, 2025

Event Location: Victoria, Oak Bay

REQUEST

GRANT
Recm'd

Project category: SS

18,000

9,000

Previous Funding:

Jan 2007, \$10,000; Jan 2011, \$0; Jan 2012, \$7000; Jan 2013, \$6000, Jan 2014, \$4000; Jan 2015, \$6500; Jan 2016, \$5,000; April 2017, \$1500; May 2018, \$3000; May 2019, \$4,000; Apr 2020, \$5,000; Apr 2022, \$4125; Apr 2023, \$8000

Mandate

The Victoria Philharmonic Choir's (VPC) mandate is to:

provide Victoria and Vancouver Island with live performances of choral music of the highest attainable standard; support the choral needs of our musical community and mount independent choral productions;

develop and educate future generations of choral singers and choral audiences;

nurture a life-long relationship with the rewards of musical arts and raise the public's knowledge and appreciation of choral arts;

attract to the choir serious amateur singers who are eager to continually develop their vocal talent with a commitment to choral excellence;

create fulfilling concert seasons and summer festivals;

coordinate and deliver educational programs, workshops and seminars on vocal technique and choral music; and collaborate with other arts organization in Victoria to mutually beneficial ends.

Project Summary

VPC is celebrating its 20th season of singing in Victoria and neighbouring CRD communities and we are requesting support for a series of three concerts in our 2024/25 performance year:

1) a November 30, 2024 performance of J.S. Bach's Mass in B Minor at First Metropolitan United Church in Victoria, which will include an orchestra of approximately 22, and 4 vocal soloists;

2) our annual interactive Family Christmas Carol Singalong concert on December 22, 2024 in St. Mary Anglican Church, Oak Bay; and,

3) a first VPC performance of Felix Mendelssohn's Elijah on March 22, 2025 at Christ Church Cathedral, written for a very large orchestra of 60 plus musicians and four soloists.

Notes for Committee Report

This application scored above the level required to fulfill the goals and intended outcomes of the Project Grant program. The recommendation is for funding support at an amount lower than their full request based on similar reductions to other applicants that scored in the same tier.

April 2024 Project Grant - Recommendation Summary

Organization: Victoria Poetry Project Society

Org Location: Victoria

Project: 2024-25 Spoken Word Programming

Start Date: Sep 12, 2024 **End date:** Apr 10, 2025

Event Location: Victoria

REQUEST

**GRANT
Recm'd**

Project category: EXT

8,500

8,500

Previous Funding:

Jan 2016, \$1,500; Jan 2017, \$2500; Jan 2018, \$3000; May 2019, \$3,500; Apr 2020, \$2545; Apr 2022, \$3,500; Apr 2023, \$7500

Mandate

The purpose of the society is to advance education in all forms of poetry through sponsoring readings, competitions, festivals and school & community outreach programs.

Project Summary

20th consecutive season of Tongues of Fire Community Stage events, including monthly gatherings at Caffe Fantastico, special events (including a 20th anniversary celebration) at the Victoria Event Centre, and workshops at Haus of Owl.

16th annual Victorious Voices Festival, a youth-centred spoken word festival.

Notes for Committee Report

This application scored above the level required to fulfill the goals and intended outcomes of the Project Grant program. It ranked in the top cohort of applications received at this granting intake. The recommendation is for the full amount of the grant request.

April 2024 Project Grant - Recommendation Summary

Organization: Victoria Quilters' Guild

Org Location: Victoria

Project: City of Gardens Quilt Show and Sale 2024

Start Date: Aug 23, 2024 **End date:** Aug 25, 2024

Event Location: Saanich

REQUEST

**GRANT
Recm'd**

Project category: OT

1,218

1,218

Previous Funding:

None

Mandate

The purpose of the Society shall be:

to promote and encourage interest in the art of quilting;

to continue to educate ourselves and the public in the art of quilting; and

to work together in harmony with mutual respect.

Project Summary

Victoria Quilters' Guild's City of Gardens Quilt Show, August 23-25, 2024 at Pearkes Recreation Centre.

This show is a biennial celebration of quilting that has been running for almost 40 years in Victoria.

This year we will be featuring a travelling display of Art Quilts c/o the Fibre Arts Network, a cooperative network of Western Canadian fibre artists whose mission is to promote fibre as an art form.

We will be offering a "Sit and Sew" area for people to try out some quilting. Their sewing efforts will be used in our Baby Quilts charitable work, donating approximately 300 quilts to the NICU each year. We also support other similar local guilds by offering them free table space to promote their own activities.

Notes for Committee Report

This application scored above the level required to fulfill the goals and intended outcomes of the Project Grant program. It ranked in the top cohort of applications received at this granting intake. The recommendation is for the full amount of the grant request.

April 2024 Project Grant - Recommendation Summary

Organization: William Head on Stage Theatre Society

Org Location: Metchosin

Project: Begin at the Beginning: Stories from Inside

Start Date: Jul 01, 2024 **End date:** Nov 30, 2024

Event Location: Metchosin

REQUEST

**GRANT
Recm'd**

23,000

16,250

Project category: OT

Previous Funding:

May 2002, \$2000; Jan 2006, \$3000; May 2013, \$8,000; May 2014, \$8,000; May 2015, \$10,000; May 2016, \$15,500; April 2017, \$5000; May 2018, \$12,000; May 2019, \$13,000, April 2020, \$13,000; Apr 2021, \$16,810; Apr 2022, \$11,250; Apr 2023, \$12,000

Mandate

To operate a not-for-profit theatre company at William Head Institution.

To provide education and training to William Head residents in all aspects of theatre arts programming;

To produce captivating performances for the enjoyment of William Head residents and the surrounding municipal communities;

To organize annual theatre productions mentored by theatre professionals from the community that have artistic, educational, and therapeutic benefits for all involved.

Project Summary

This year will highlight humorous and heartfelt moments throughout WHoS's production journey.

Two central themes, "To Begin at the Beginning" and "Storytelling: How to Tell a Story," are the thematic goals that will drive the production. WHoS artist J.T. will further develop the script to incorporate five distinct theatrical styles: personal memoir, shadow puppetry, mask, physical theatre, and original musical performance.

Notes for Committee Report

This application scored above the level required to fulfill the goals and intended outcomes of the Project Grant program. While it ranked highly, this application made an unusually high request that was beyond the normal scope of this funding program. The recommendation is for a reduced amount of the grant request that is more aligned to the normal award levels of this funding program.

April 2024 Project Grant - Recommendation Summary

Organization: XChanges Gallery and Studios

Org Location: Victoria

Project: Xchanges Gallery Programming

Start Date: Jul 01, 2024 **End date:** Jun 30, 2025

Event Location: Victoria

REQUEST

**GRANT
Recm'd**

Project category: EXT

10,000

10,000

Previous Funding:

OP 2021, \$8500; Apr 2022, \$7,500; Apr 2023, \$10,000

Mandate

- 1) To operate, maintain, and manage a cooperatively maintained artist-run centre for the following purposes:
- 2) To promote and support the endeavours of the local artistic community for the benefit of the public at large, within the resources available to the Society.
- 3) To provide a public gallery for local and regional artists for solo, group and curated exhibitions and other art-related programming opportunities
- 4) To provide studios to practicing visual artists at affordable rents

Project Summary

Xchanges is requesting support for two artistic programs that take place in our gallery space:

- 1) Annual Gallery Exhibition Program— 9 exhibitions that showcases artists who represent diverse communities and media and allows for public interaction directly with artists through their exhibiting period. We place an emphasis in our open calls for applications from emerging artists (such as university students).
- 2) Community Life Drawing Program— has now increased from last year's reporting from 2 to 3 sessions per week. This program encourages community connection and artistic development in a beginner friendly, all ages, and interactive space. This program runs year-round, excluding statutory holidays.

Notes for Committee Report

This application scored above the level required to fulfill the goals and intended outcomes of the Project Grant program. It ranked in the top cohort of applications received at this granting intake. The recommendation is for the full amount of the grant request.



Making a difference...together

**REPORT TO ARTS COMMISSION
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, JUNE 26, 2024**

SUBJECT **Greater Victoria Regional Arts Awards Funding Request from ProArt Alliance**

ISSUE SUMMARY

The ProArt Alliance of Greater Victoria has submitted a funding request to the Arts Commission for a one-time \$6,000 grant to support the Greater Victoria Regional Arts Awards.

BACKGROUND

In 2020, the Greater Victoria Regional Arts Awards included the inaugural CRD Arts Commission Regional Impact Award. The event took place as an entirely online event, due to COVID-19 gathering restrictions.

In 2021, the event had a hybrid presentation, due to COVID-19 gathering restrictions, with an in-person component hosted at the Mary Winspear Centre in Sidney. In 2022, the event was held as an in-person gathering at Kwench and, in 2023, the event was held as an in-person gathering at Victoria City Hall.

Funding History

Greater Victoria Regional Arts Awards receives funding from multiple sources, including local businesses, City of Victoria, and Victoria Foundation. Recipients are selected through an open nomination process that is adjudicated by a jury of peers. The Arts Service has funded the CRD Arts Commission Regional Impact Award since 2020 (see Table 1).

Table 1. Funding for Greater Victoria Regional Arts Awards

Year	Funding from CRD Arts Service	Recipient
2020	\$5,000	Theatre SKAM
2021	\$5,000	Intrepid Theatre & Puente Theatre (collaboration on residency project)
2022	\$6,000	Esquimalt Community Arts Hub
2023	\$6,000	Victoria Arts Council
2024	\$6,000 (this request)	TBD

ProArt Alliance is requesting \$5,000 to sponsor the CRD Arts Commission Regional Impact Award and an additional \$1,000 to assist with the production of the event.

ALTERNATIVES

Alternative 1

That \$6,000 be provided from the Arts and Culture Support Service operating budget, using the operating reserve, if necessary, to ProArt Alliance of Greater Victoria to support the 2024 Greater Victoria Regional Arts Awards, to convene and celebrate the CRD arts community with \$5,000 dedicated to funding the CRD Arts Commission Regional Impact Award and \$1,000 dedicated to supporting the production of the event.

Alternative 2

That this report be referred to staff for additional information.

IMPLICATIONS

Alignment with CRD Arts & Culture Strategic Plan

Supporting the 2024 Greater Victoria Regional Arts Awards aligns with goal #2 in the Arts & Culture Support Service strategic plan, to “[r]aise awareness of the value of the arts to demonstrate how it contributes to economic sustainability, community vitality, and quality of life.”

Service Delivery Implications

This initiative is delivered through a partnership with ProArt Alliance of Greater Victoria who handle all aspects of award nominations and event production. Continuing to support the award named for the CRD Arts Commission would be aligned with the CRD Arts and Culture Support Service mission to “Support, promote, and celebrate the arts.”

CONCLUSION

The Arts Commission has received a funding request from the ProArt Alliance of Greater Victoria for a grant of \$6,000 to support the Greater Victoria Regional Arts Awards with \$5,000 to be dedicated to the CRD Arts Commission Regional Impact Award and \$1,000 to be dedicated to supporting the production of the event, which is in line with previous support for this event. The staff report recommends a grant in the full amount of the request.

RECOMMENDATION

That \$6,000 be provided from the Arts and Culture Support Service operating budget, using the operating reserve, if necessary, to ProArt Alliance of Greater Victoria to support the 2024 Greater Victoria Regional Arts Awards to convene and celebrate the CRD arts community with \$5,000 dedicated to funding the CRD Arts Commission Regional Impact Award and \$1,000 dedicated to supporting the production of the event.

Submitted by:	Chris Gilpin, Manager, Arts & Culture Support Service
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ATTACHMENT

Appendix A: Letter from ProArt Alliance of Greater Victoria, dated June 3, 2024, re: Request for Impact Award sponsorship, Greater Victoria Regional Arts Awards 2024

Marianne Alto
Chair, Arts Commission
CRD Arts & Culture Support Service
625 Fisgard Street
Victoria, BC V8W 1R7

June 3, 2024

RE: Request for Impact Award sponsorship, Greater Victoria Regional Arts Awards 2024

Dear Marianne,

On behalf of the ProArt Alliance member organizations and the regional arts community please accept this letter as a sincere thank you to the CRD Arts Commission for its sponsorship of the *CRD Arts Commission Regional Impact Award* that was presented at last year's 2023 Greater Victoria Regional Arts Awards program. The award was presented to the *Victoria Arts Council* and received by their Executive Director, Kegan McFadden. The VAC is a worthy recipient and was recognized for the breadth of their work and the great ways that the organization reaches out into the community. ProArt appreciates the Arts Commissions support of the awards program and recognizes our shared goal to highlight the outstanding work that organizations such as the *Victoria Arts Council* are able to do and to celebrate the impact that arts and culture has on the vitality of the Capital Region.

ProArt is pleased to announce that we will be hosting the Greater Victoria Regional Arts Awards Program again this year and invite the Arts Commission to sponsor a 2024 *CRD Arts Commission Regional Impact Award*. We will be hosting an in person event proposed to take place in October at an appropriate venue in the Capital Region. This year's event will continue to build on the arts community's ongoing support of the awards program and will invite additional ways for audiences and the arts supporting public to participate and will observe all appropriate health, safety and accessibility accommodations.

To facilitate the presentation of the *CRD Arts Commission Regional Impact Award* this year ProArt is requesting that the CRD Arts Commission:

- Sponsor the *2024 CRD Arts Commission Regional Impact Award* and fund the award with a \$5,000 cash prize.
- Provide a \$1,000 cash contribution towards the operating costs of the awards program.
- Promote the 2024 awards program by sharing the nomination package, deadlines and process, event dates and details, and the resulting outcome of the awards program and recipients through your communications and social media programs.

Please join us in the continued acknowledgement and celebration of the outstanding work that is produced, engaged, and supported in the Capital Region. Let me know if you have any questions and we look forward to working with the Arts Commission again towards this year's awards program.

All the best,

Doug Jarvis
Administrator
ProArt Alliance of Greater Victoria
info@proartalliance.ca





Making a difference...together

**REPORT TO ARTS COMMISSION
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, JUNE 26, 2024**

SUBJECT **British Columbia Arts Council's Regional Areas Policy**

ISSUE SUMMARY

The implementation of the regional areas policy at the British Columbia Arts Council (BC Arts Council) is increasingly having a negative impact on artists and arts organizations located in the Capital Regional District (CRD).

BACKGROUND

The New Foundations Strategic Plan (2018-22) and the subsequent Extending Foundations: Action Plan (2022-24) for the BC Arts Council identify designated priority groups, including applicants "located in regional areas (outside of greater Vancouver and the capital region)." This means artists and organizations based in Greater Vancouver or the Capital Region receive lower priority for funding in project and operating assistance grant programs and, in the case of the Accelerate Pilot Program, this policy makes applicants from the Capital Region ineligible.

Regional Areas: For the purposes of BC Arts Council grants and funding priorities, regional areas are considered as those outside of the capital region and greater Vancouver.¹

These policies are having multiple negative impacts on artists and arts organizations that happen to be located in the Capital Region. In the 2022-23 round of Operating Grants, all organizations with an operating grant larger than \$75,000 received a 10% reduction of their funding level; however, organizations based in regions other than Greater Vancouver and the Capital Region had the opportunity to have that funding restored during the same intake (as did organizations led by equity-seeking communities). The result was operating funding from the BC Arts Council to arts organizations in the CRD was reduced by \$113,410 or 7.7% compared to the previous year.

The BC Arts Council has recently announced that the Operating Assistance program will not be open to new applicants in 2024 or 2025. However, the Accelerate Pilot Program, which offers multi-year operating funding for emerging arts organizations may continue and this program specifically excludes applicants located in Greater Vancouver and the Capital Region (unless embedded in equity-seeking communities). The BC Arts Council has not provided any rationale in their program guidelines, news releases, or strategic plans for why artists and arts organizations in the Capital Region are being lumped together with Greater Vancouver and excluded from crucial grant programs, deprioritized in others, and targeted for reductions in funding.

It is within the purview of the CRD Arts Commission to advocate for the interests of artists and arts organizations located in the Capital Region, including to other levels of government. The Minister of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport holds legal authority to approve all funding recommendations and policies of the BC Arts Council; the council of the BC Arts Council is an advisory group, which has influence over strategic planning and policy implementation.

¹ BC Arts Council, "Glossary" (last visited 17 June 2024), online (website). As directed from a link from the Accelerate Pilot program guidelines: <https://www.bcartscouncil.ca/accessibility/glossary/>

ALTERNATIVES

Alternative 1

That the Chair of the Arts Commission send letters to the council of the BC Arts Council and to the Minister of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport, outlining the impacts of the “regional areas” policy on artists and arts organizations based in the Capital Region and advocating that these policies are modified so that all artists and arts organizations in the CRD are eligible and prioritized for funding in the same ways as artists and arts organizations from other regions of BC.

Alternative 2

That this report be referred to staff for additional information.

IMPLICATIONS

Alignment with CRD Arts & Culture Strategic Plan

By advocating for the interests of artists and arts organizations located in the CRD, the Arts Commission is fulfilling its mission to “Support, champion and develop the arts.” Specifically, it is advancing Goal #1 of the 2024-27 Strategic Plan, which is focused on ways in which the Arts Commission can act as a Champion for the arts sector of the Capital Region.

Policy Implications

Any advocacy letter from the CRD to another level of government must be conducted in accordance with the CRD Intergovernmental Relations Policy. This means that any letter will need to be reviewed by the CAO Office to ensure that it aligns with CRD communication activities and protocols, in the interest of protecting and advancing the “political, economic, environmental, social, and cultural interests of the people in the capital region.”

CONCLUSION

The BC Arts Council’s so-called “regional areas” policy deprioritizes or, in some instances, entirely excludes artists and arts organizations located in the Capital Region from accessing arts funding. Staff have provided evidence and analysis about the impacts of this policy and are recommending that advocacy to the provincial government to modify their policy would be appropriate.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Chair of the Arts Commission send letters to the council of the BC Arts Council and to the Minister of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport, outlining the impacts of the “regional areas” policy on artists and arts organizations based in the Capital Region and advocating that these policies are modified so that all artists and arts organizations in the CRD are eligible and prioritized for funding in the same ways as artists and arts organizations from other regions of BC.

Submitted by:	Chris Gilpin, Manager, Arts & Culture Support Service
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ATTACHMENT

No attachments.

Victoria Nikkei Cultural Society



June 9, 2024

Tsugio Kurushima
President
Victoria Nikkei Cultural Society
1200 Tolmie Avenue
Victoria, BC V8X 2H9

c/o Chris Gilpin
Arts Support Manager
CRD Arts Commission
625 Fisgard Street
Victoria, BC V8W 1R7

Dear Chris Gilpin;

RE: Grant from the CRD Equity Fund

On behalf of the Victoria Nikkei Cultural Society, I would like to thank the CRD Arts Commission for awarding us a \$7,500 grant from the CRD Equity Fund. As stated in our application, this money will go towards a major Public Art piece that will be installed in the Esquimalt Gorge Park. This art piece will be a collaboration between Indigenous and Japanese Canadian artists.

We have already received a grant from the Esquimalt Art Reserve Fund and have applied to the BC Arts Council. In the summer we will apply to the Canada Council for the Arts. Your award will help us secure funding from these other sources.

Thank you again for your generous support. It is much appreciated.

Arigato Gozaimasu,

Tsugio Kurushima
President,
Victoria Nikkei Cultural Society