



Meeting Minutes

Arts Commission

Wednesday, June 26, 2024

4:00 PM

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

PRESENT

Members: M. Alto (Chair), P. Brent (EP), D. Cavens, S. Epp (EP), C. Green (alternate) (EP),
K. Roessingh (EP)

Arts Advisory Council: S. Donaldson (EP), J. Verano (EP)

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

Regrets: D. Lajeunesse, G. Lemon, C. Plant, C. Smart

EP – Electronic Participation

The meeting was called to order at 4:02 pm.

1. Territorial Acknowledgement

Chair Alto provided a Territorial Acknowledgement, expressing gratitude for the peoples on whose land we live and work, and invited participants to acknowledge, with word, gesture or thought, their connection to the land and its first peoples, and to express our thanks.

2. Approval of Agenda

MOVED by Member Cavens, SECONDED by Member Roessingh

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

CARRIED

3. Adoption of Minutes

MOVED by Member Cavens, SECONDED by Member Brent

**That the minutes of the Arts Commission meeting of May 22, 2024 be adopted
as circulated.**

CARRIED

4. Chair's Remarks

Chair Alto noted that she had taken hard copies of the *CRD Arts & Culture: 2023 Impact Report* to Victoria Council and has been distributing it widely electronically – and has received nothing but incredibly positive responses. This is a tribute to its content and quality and is both a job well done by staff and a great vision document for the Arts Commission.

The CRD Board has reestablished the Performing Arts Facilities Select Committee and Chair Alto is chairing it. Their first meeting is on July 3rd to discuss the purpose of the Committee and next steps. Cliff McNeil-Smith, the mayor of Sidney, is vice-chair.

5. Presentations/Delegations - none

6. Commission Business

6.1 Arts Advisory Council (AAC) Update

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

J. Verano remarked that the AAC meeting was two weeks ago, and they are bringing the April Project Grant approvals forward today. One AAC member is resigning (A. Hershberg) and two are not seeking reappointment after the end of December (C. Caravaca and W. Greaves). There will be a call for new members over the summer.

C. Gilpin was asked to clarify the process and he explained that advertising the call out will begin in early July, with applications due by August 15. Applications will be reviewed, and interviews will take place, with candidates brought to the Arts Commission in the fall for appointment.

6.1.2. Arts Advisory Council Minutes: June 11, 2024 meeting – received for information

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

6.2 Manager's Report (verbal)

C. Gilpin said that the 2023 Impact Report has been distributed as a pdf to every elected official in the region, with the option to receive hard copies. A Gibbs has reach out to municipal communications staff where possible. We have leveraged a social media campaign on Facebook, X, and Instagram. The Implementation Plan update for the Communications and Outreach Plan will be presented at the September Arts Commission meeting. C. Gilpin noted the correspondence from Victoria Nikkei Cultural Society, who said that their CRD grant will help them secure funding from other levels of government. This is a good reminder that the nominal amount of our grant is not the entirety of its overall impact.

6.2.1. Outreach Report (attached)

6.3 April 2024 Project Grant Recommendations

S. Donaldson noted that we had 20 applications and adjudicators chose to fund 16, which is an 80% success rate. The average grant amount was amongst the highest in four years. There were two new applicants this year that were successful. Some highlights from the intake were:

- Victoria Poetry Project in support of their 20th anniversary.
- Victoria Quilters Guild with a very small request bringing a national exhibition into Victoria.
- Salty Broad Productions was a new applicant – LGBTQ2 positive, Esquimalt resident, based in Victoria proper, producing a cabaret-style event.

C. Gilpin noted the return to an older policy that allows applicants who are unsuccessful in January to reapply in April resulted in three applicants reapplying. Vancouver Island Visual Arts Society applied to Incubator, and The Other Guys reapplied to April Projects; both were successful. Oak Bay Community Artists applied to January and April Projects and were unsuccessful in both intakes. We will report back regarding any trends when it comes to this policy.

Embrace Arts Foundation reached out yesterday to withdraw their application due to a change in staff. We will change the proposed motion to sever that one application.

**MOVED by Member Cavens, seconded by Member Epp,
That the 2024 April Project Grant recommendations be approved as presented,
excluding the Embrace Arts Foundation allocation. CARRIED**

6.4 Greater Victoria Regional Arts Award Funding Request from ProArt Alliance

C. Gilpin explained that this organization is not eligible for any of our existing grant programs, so they need to apply directly. We have funded this award for the past four years, and it is aligned with our strategic goal to collaborate with arts organizations to celebrate the impact of the arts sector.

A question was posed whether it would make sense to include it in the budgeting process. C. Gilpin agreed to bring it to budget planning but advised that it still requires yearly approval of the Arts Commission.

**MOVED by Member Brent, seconded by Member Cavens,
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. CARRIED.**

6.5 British Columbia Arts Council's Regional Areas Policy

C. Gilpin noted that the BC Arts Council began this policy in 2018 but it did not have an immediate effect because funding was stabilized during the pandemic. Last year, however, the policy resulted in a cut of \$113,000 to our arts sector, with no option of having funding restored. BC Arts Council has announced no new operating applicants for 2024 or 2025, and organizations from "regional

areas” (Capital Region and Greater Vancouver) are not eligible for their new “Accelerate” pilot program.

**MOVED by Member Cavens seconded by Member Roessingh,
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.**

Chair Alto proposed an amendment to send the letter to additional recipients to ensure that people are educated as to the policy.

**MOVED by Member Cavens seconded by Member Roessingh,
That the motion be amended by adding the following after “Culture and Sport”: copied to the Premier’s office, elected members of council in jurisdictions of the CRD, and any dedicated arts & cultural staff in these jurisdictions.** **CARRIED**

The question was called on the main motion as amended:

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, copied to the Premier’s office, elected members of council in jurisdictions of the CRD, and any dedicated arts & cultural staff in these jurisdictions, 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. **CARRIED**

7. New Business

8. Correspondence – Thank you letter from Victoria Nikkei Cultural Society.

9. Adjournment

**MOVED by Member Cavens, SECONDED by Member Roessingh
That the June 26, 2024 Arts Commission meeting be adjourned at 4:47 pm.
CARRIED**

Chair

Recorder