



Making a difference...together

Minutes of a Meeting of the ARTS COMMISSION

Held Wednesday, January 27, 2021, in Room 651, 625 Fisgard St., Victoria, BC

EP = Electronic Participation

Present: Members: J. Loveday (Chair) (EP), S. Epp (EP), W. Gardner (EP), C. Green (EP), L. Hundleby (EP), D. Lajeunesse (EP), G. Lemon (EP), C. Plant (EP), K. Roessingh (EP)

Staff: James Lam, Manager, Arts Development; V. Jeevanandam, Outreach Coordinator; N. More, Senior Administrative Secretary (recorder)

Also Present: Arts Advisory Council: C. Heiman, Chair (EP), M. Heinz, Funding Chair (EP)

The meeting was called to order at 4:04 p.m.

1 Territorial Acknowledgement

Chair Loveday gave the territorial acknowledgement.

2 Approval of Agenda

MOVED by Member Roessingh, **SECONDED** by Member Hundleby,
That the agenda be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

3 Electronic and In-Person Meetings of CRD Committees and Commissions

MOVED by Member Roessingh, **SECONDED** by Member Green,

1. That this resolution applies to the Arts Commission for the meetings being held between January 1 and December 31, 2021, and
2. That the attendance of the public at the place of the meeting cannot be accommodated in accordance with the applicable requirements or recommendations under the *Public Health Act*, despite the best efforts of the committee, because:
 - a. The available meeting facilities cannot accommodate more than eight people in person, including members of the committee and staff, and
 - b. There are no other facilities presently available that will allow physical attendance of the committee and the public in sufficient numbers; and
3. That the committee is ensuring opening, transparency, accessibility and accountability in respect of the open meeting by the following means:
 - a. By providing notice of the meeting in newspaper or local notice Board, including the methods for providing written or electronic submissions,
 - b. By making the meeting agenda, as well as the other relevant documents, available on the CRD website, and directing interested persons to the website by means of the notices provided in respect of the meeting,
 - c. By strongly encouraging the provision of, and subsequently receiving and distributing to members, written correspondence from the public in advance of the meeting, and
 - d. By making the minutes of the meeting available on the CRD website following the meeting.

CARRIED

4 Adoption of Minutes

MOVED by Member Gardner, **SECONDED** by Member Roessingh,
That the minutes of the November 25, 2020, Arts Commission meeting be adopted as previously circulated.

CARRIED

5 Chair's Remarks

In his remarks, Chair Loveday welcomed the new members to the Commission and expressed his feeling that this is an important time for arts in the region and for providing support to help the arts community maintain and thrive.

6 Presentations/Delegations

6.1 Presentation: Doug Jarvis, ProArt Alliance of Greater Victoria, Greater Victoria Regional Arts Awards Report

D. Jarvis addressed the Commission via electronic participation. He spoke of his role within ProArt Alliance and the arts community, the history of the ProArt Alliance and the goals of its awards program, including celebrating the arts, recognizing arts organization volunteers and staff and providing financial support. He expressed that the awards provide a sponsorship opportunity to local businesses and organizations to help make the arts visible, celebrated and valued. He thanked the CRD for sponsoring an award and hoped the CRD would continue working together with ProArt Alliance.

The Chair opened the floor for questions.

D. Jarvis clarified that the organization which had received the CRD Arts Commission Regional Impact Award was Theatre SKAM, with endeavours such as theatre productions along the Galloping Goose Trail and projects with emerging arts practitioners, all while following health protocols in order to be present in the public in these times.

D. Jarvis described the adjudication process and that it included a jury system reflective of arts peer review juries of the BC and the Canadian arts councils.

D. Jarvis then left the meeting as there were no further questions from the Commission.

7 Commission Business

7.1 Arts Advisory Council Update

7.1.1 Arts Advisory Council Chair's Report (Verbal)

Chair Heiman addressed the Commission. She reported that the Arts Advisory Council (AAC) had its first meeting in January, where she was elected as Chair and M. Heinz was elected as Finance Chair. As for the AAC as a whole, new appointments will have to be made, as the terms of two members end and further members are resigning due to personal or professional reasons.

Chair Heiman commented that adjudication of the Program Grant applications took place in November, and, additionally, that she looked forward to hearing the Commission's discussion of the recommendation for an increase to the funding budget.

Chair Loveday opened the floor for questions from the Commission.

Staff clarified the process for the AAC member appointments. C. Heiman clarified that the timing of the changes wouldn't affect the adjudications coming up.

MOVED by Member Roessingh, **SECONDED** by Member Green,
That the Arts Advisory Council Chair's verbal report be received for information.

CARRIED

7.1.2 Arts Advisory Council Minutes for Information

MOVED by Member Roessingh, **SECONDED** by Member Lemon,
That the Arts Advisory Council Minutes of January 5, 2021, be received for information.

CARRIED

7.1.3 Arts Advisory Council *Activities by Council Summary*

MOVED by Member Gardner, **SECONDED** by Member Roessingh,
That the Arts Advisory Council *Activities by Council Summary* of January 5, 2021, be received for information.

CARRIED

7.2 Outreach Update

V. Jeevanandam provided highlights of the report.

At the friendly request of the Commission, she summarized her professional background.

The Commission sought clarification on planning for an Arts Summit. Staff responded that discussions have begun on bringing about an event in the fall of 2021, which could be a combination of online and in-person formats, depending on the guidelines from the BC Health Authority.

The Commission sought clarification on obtaining information about the impact of the pandemic response on the arts organizations within the service.

Staff clarified that in the spring of 2020, shortly after the restrictions came into effect, a survey went out on the impact relative to programming and staffing, and a report was made to the Arts Commission. The upcoming survey will be a repetition to see what has changed since then. A baseline was established with the first survey.

MOVED by Member Plant, **SECONDED** by Member Hundleby,
That the Outreach Update be received for information.

CARRIED

The Commission requested that staff provide updates on planning for the Arts Summit at upcoming Commission meetings.

7.3 Annual Operating Grant Recommendations

J. Lam provided highlights of the report.

M. Heinz commented on the adjudication process. The scores of the applicants all met the criteria. The financials won't show the effects of the pandemic response until next year.

The Chair noted that the staff report contained a recommendation in two parts, and asked for consideration of the first recommendation, which addressed the granting. W. Gardner indicated she would be recused because of an interest in Ptarmigan Arts.

MOVED by Member Green, **SECONDED** by Member Roessingh,
That the operating grant recommendation for Ptarmigan Arts be separated out from the main consideration.

CARRIED

The Commission sought clarification on adjudication points such as new, returning and multi-year funded organizations, Notice of Significant Concern, and reduced or interrupted programming due to the pandemic in light of grant criteria.

Finance Chair Heinz indicated that within the rank, those questions all remain consistent, and there was a question on the application asking what the applicant had done to cope and future plans.

MOVED by Member Gardner, **SECONDED** by Member Roessingh,
That the operating grant recommendations for 2021, with the exception of Ptarmigan Arts, be approved as presented.

The Commission discussion included the following points:

- ensuring support for the arts organizations protects the health of the community
- how adaptable can the CRD Arts & Culture be as a funder in the circumstances
- depending on the situation going forward, might the Commission have to review the strategic plan

The Chair called the question:

MOVED by Member Gardner, **SECONDED** by Member Roessingh,
That the operating grant recommendations for 2021, with the exception of Ptarmigan Arts, be approved as presented.

CARRIED

MOVED by Member Plant, **SECONDED** by Member Hundleby,
That the operating grant recommendation pertaining to Ptarmigan Arts be dealt with as the last item on the agenda ahead of adjournment.

CARRIED

The consideration of the separated grant recommendation was moved to position 10 on the agenda, and adjournment to position 11.

Chair Loveday opened the floor for discussion, in workshop format, on the second recommendation contained within the staff report, which was to increase the operating grant budget by \$246,000.

The Commission discussion included the following points:

- Limited increase yearly in the overall CRD budget.
- If option to phase in over a few years, would need to know impact on municipalities.
- In light of current economic conditions due of COVID-19, maintain status quo for now.
- The approved increase in this year's budget and how that might best be allocated amongst the grant programs.

MOVED by Member Plant, **SECONDED** by Member Green,
That staff be directed to report back with a review of phasing in the Arts Advisory Council's recommendation to increase the operating grant budget by \$246,000 over three, four and five years.

The Commission discussion included the following points:

- Whether to include the impact on individual jurisdictions as well as the overall impact.
- Cost of living in future years cannot be known in advance, but can that factor be used in some way as a reality check?
- Tie into the COVID-19 circumstance at least briefly.
- Include all of CRD Arts & Culture Service grant programs, holistically, in terms of financial reality: Is one or some needed more than others? Hard to see increases above the cost of living—what are the trade-offs?
- The provisional budget in October 2020 approved a 1.7% increase for the arts grants, and final adoption is in March 2021. Already set. Difficult to ask for an increase at this time, best to adhere to what's in the plan already; 2.4m total operating grant.
- In the strategic plan meeting, the key thing was increasing the budget as best as possible. Understand that was pre-COVID-19, but resist diminishing that aim going forward.
- If moving towards 100% participation in the service amongst the jurisdictions, note that growth of participants would also bring growth in applicants.
- Could face being stymied in programs because not having the means of a bigger budget.
- The CRD arts service grants provide a life-line in some ways to the organizations who receive them.

Chair Loveday called the question on the motion:

MOVED by Member Plant, **SECONDED** by Member Green,
That staff be directed to report back with a review of phasing in the recommendation to increase the operating grant budget by \$246,000 over three, four and five years.

CARRIED

OPPOSED: Hundleby

8 Correspondence: Victoria Children's Choir, December 2020, re: Thank you

MOVED by Member Hundleby, **SECONDED** by Member Roessingh,
That the correspondence from Victoria Children's Choir be received for information.

CARRIED

9 New Business

9.1 Motions Arising from Item 7.2 Outreach Update

MOVED by Member Plant, **SECONDED** by Member Hundleby,
That staff be directed to work together with the Arts Advisory Council to provide a summary of the activities of the organizations that received funding in their response to COVID-19.

CARRIED

9.2 Outreach to Non-Participating Jurisdictions

The Commission requested an update at a future meeting on the outreach made to non-participating jurisdictions to encourage participation.

9.3 Motion Arising from 6.1 ProArt Alliance Impact Award

MOVED by Member Loveday, **SECONDED** by Member Plant,
That the staff be directed to provide a report on providing annual funding to the ProArt Impact Award.

CARRIED

10 Program Grant Recommendation Concerning Ptarmigan Arts

W. Gardner recused herself due to interest in Ptarmigan Arts and left the meeting at 5:51 p.m.

MOVED by Member Loveday, **SECONDED** by Member Hundleby,
That the Operating Grant recommendation for 2021 pertaining to Ptarmigan Arts be approved as presented.

CARRIED

11 Adjournment

MOVED by Member Green, **SECONDED** by Member Hundleby,
That the meeting be adjourned at 5:52 p.m.

CARRIED

CHAIR

RECORDER