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## Minutes of a Meeting of the ARTS COMMISSION

Held Wednesday, March 24, 2021, in Room 488, 625 Fisgard St., Victoria, BC

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EP = Electronic Participation

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

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

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

**Absent:** G. Lemon, C. Green

The meeting was called to order at 4:12 pm.

### 1 Territorial Acknowledgement

### 2 Approval of Agenda

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

**CARRIED**

### 3 Adoption of Minutes

The Commission noted

**MOVED** by Member Plant, **SECONDED** by Member Roessingh,  
That the minutes of the January 27, 2021, Arts Commission meeting be adopted as corrected, so that Paragraph 3 of section 7.3 shows the name W. Gardner, not C. Green.

**CARRIED**

### 4 Chair's Remarks

The Chair had no remarks at this time.

### 5 Presentations/Delegations: There were none.

### 6 Commission Business

#### 6.1 Arts Advisory Council Update

##### 6.1.1 Arts Advisory Council Chair's Report (Verbal)

Chair Heiman reported on the following:

- There would be several new members on the 2021 Arts Advisory Council, as some members have completed their maximum allowed terms.
- A subcommittee was formed to consider how more consistent information on the restricted funds that organizations report on in the financials for Operating Grants could be gathered. A line in the regular application was identified where the size and

- purpose of an organization's restricted funds could be reported. The goal is to add to the understanding of organizations' financial status and sustainability.
- A 2019 report showed over 9,000 jobs dependent on the arts. While it may be easy to talk about how the lack of live performances due to COVID-19 means missing the enjoyment of performances, it is important to remember the economic impact through loss of employment.
  - Equity, Incubator and IDEA Grants will be the next adjudication and the Council will bring those recommendations to the Commission at a future meeting.

Discussion and clarification ensued on the following topics:

- First Nations groups have access to grants if they meet the basic criteria and have been funded through both Project and Equity Grants. There are impediments to support of First Nations groups that are based in non-participating jurisdictions. Arts staff are examining this issue through CRD First Nations Relations.
- The Commission suggested an orientation for new members of the Arts Advisory Council would be beneficial.

#### **6.1.2 Arts Advisory Council Minutes for Information: Feb. 2 and March 3, 2021**

#### **6.1.3 Arts Advisory Council Activities by Council Summary: Feb. 2 and March 3, 2021**

**MOVED** by Member Roessingh, **SECONDED** by Member Gardner,

That the Arts Advisory Council (AAC) Chair's report, the AAC minutes February 2 and March 3, 2021, and Activities by Council Summary of February 2 and March 3, 2021, be received for information.

**CARRIED**

### **6.2 January 2021 Project Grant Recommendations**

J. Lam shared the covering list of the grant recommendations, now on file at CRD Finance and Technology. He provided highlights of the report and the grant recommendations.

M. Heinz provided information on the adjudication process and feedback given to applicants.

The Commission sought further information on:

- The reasons some applicants were not successful in obtaining a grant.
- Applicants provide financial information and project budgets in their applications, the clarity of which informs the adjudication.
- Applicants get a letter noting the reasons for decisions; part of the Arts & Culture Service grant purpose is developing organizational capacity, so the feedback to applicants is relevant.
- This first intake of two in the year amounts to slightly less than 50% of the \$240,000 total funds of the Project Grant program.
- Grant recommendations balance the level of request and the available funding. Fewer applicants at this intake and a consideration of revenue generation issues due to COVID-19 restrictions resulted in a higher level of support than is typical.

**MOVED** by Member Roessingh, **SECONDED** by Member Plant,  
That the January Project Grant recommendations for 2021 be approved as presented.

**CARRIED**

**D. Lajeunesse left the meeting at 5:00 p.m.**

### **6.3 Outreach Update**

#### **6.3.1 Results of Survey on Impact of COVID-19 on Funded Organizations**

V. Jeevanandam provided highlights of the report and responded to questions from the Commission.

- 12% of respondents who reported increased budgets during COVID-19 situation were likely smaller organizations benefitting from emergency support from other levels of government.
- Survey results will be communicated by staff via media release with the Arts at a Distance report appended. Results will also be included in the regular eNewsletter to arts organizations, by the Chair in outreach to non-participating jurisdictions and by Commission members to colleagues on their respective councils.
- The resilience shown in the arts community is worth acknowledging; finding creative ways to work under the Health Authority orders is a huge challenge and learning how to do things online is not a simple thing.

**MOVED** by Member Roessingh, **SECONDED** by Member Epp,  
That the Results of Survey on Impact of COVID-19 on Funded Organizations be received for information.

**CARRIED**

#### **6.3.2 Outreach to Non-Participating Jurisdictions (Verbal, Chair Loveday)**

Chair Loveday reported on the outreach activities to non-participating jurisdictions.

- A letter was sent to councils offering a presentation by Chair Loveday and J. Lam on the benefits of joining the service, including benefits to organizations within the jurisdictions. Responses were received from some jurisdictions, while others did not respond or only received the letter as information.
- Chair Loveday and J. Lam were invited to present to Sidney and Colwood councils. Colwood council has requested a follow up presentation for further information.

Discussion included the following points

- The CRD Board adopted as a strategic priority 100% participation in the arts services.
- The Board also said the Arts Commission would lead the pursuit of 100% participation.
- Jurisdictions that already participate are subsidizing those who benefit but who are not supporting it. From the *Building our Arts Future* study, people agree that the arts service should be regional.

- After the outreach is done, if 100% is not reached, it was suggested that the Commission may recommend to the Board that participation should be mandatory as part of a regional service.
- An end date to this engagement period should be established, so there is a timeline to receive a response or note of interest, and another letter sent to the non-participating jurisdictions with a requested response time.
- At the close of the engagement period, if 100% participation was still not reached, then the Commission could discuss reporting back to the Board on the delegated priority and what the Commission's recommendation to the Board would be.

**MOVED** by Member Plant, **SECONDED** by Member Roessingh,  
That the Outreach to Non-Participating Jurisdictions verbal report be received for information.

**CARRIED**

**MOVED** by Member Plant, **SECONDED** by Member Roessingh,  
That the Chair and the Manager, Arts & Culture Support Service, propose at the next Arts Commission meeting a timeline and strategy for the Arts Commission to seek 100% participation in the CRD Arts Service.

**CARRIED**

#### **6.4 Funding Sources for Continued Support of Greater Victoria Arts Impact Award**

J. Lam provided highlights of the report. The Commission discussed that money in the reserve gives flexibility to champion arts in the region by sponsoring the award.

**MOVED** by Member Plant, **SECONDED** by Member Hundleby,  
That the Arts Commission continue to fund the award for the 2021 year from the operating reserve if requested.

**CARRIED**

#### **6.5 Impact of \$246,000 Increase to Operating Grants Budget over 3, 4 and 5 Years**

J. Lam provided highlights of the report.

The Commission discussed the report in light of the previous discussion on attaining 100% participation in the service and that the information would best be brought forward at a later date.

**MOVED** by Member Plant, **SECONDED** by Member Hundleby,  
That the Impact of \$246,000 Increase to Operating Grants Budget over 3, 4 and 5 Years report be received for information.

**CARRIED**

### **7 Correspondence**

- Victoria On Stage Musical Theatre Society, 16 February 2021

**MOVED** by Member Roessingh, **SECONDED** by Member Hundleby,  
That the correspondence from Victoria On Stage Musical Theatre Society of 16 February 2021  
be received for information.

**CARRIED**

**8 New Business:** There was no new business.

**9 Motion to Close the Meeting**

**9.1 Motion to Close the Meeting**

**MOVED** by Member Loveday, **SECONDED** by Member Plant,

1. That the Arts Advisory Council Chair and Funding Chair remain present for the closed meeting.
2. That the Commission close the meeting in accordance with the *Community Charter* Part 4, Division 3, Section 90(1) (a) personal information about an identifiable individual who holds or is being considered for a position as an officer, employee or agent of the regional district or another position appointed by the regional district.

**CARRIED**

**The Commission moved to the closed session at 5:30 p.m.**

**The Commission rose from the closed session at 5:49 p.m.**

**10 Rise and Report**

The Arts Commission reported on the following appointments and reappointments:

The following persons were appointed to the **Arts Advisory Council** for an initial one-year term ending March 2022: Deb Beaton-Smith, Will Greaves, Kari Huhtala, and Elizabeth Matheson.

The following person was reappointed to the **Arts Advisory Council** for a term of three years ending March 2024: Ari Hershberg.

**11 Adjournment**

**MOVED** by Member Hundleby, **SECONDED** by Member Gardner,  
That the meeting be adjourned at 5:49 p.m.

**CARRIED**

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CHAIR

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RECORDER