



Making a difference...together

Minutes of a Meeting of the ARTS COMMISSION

Held Wednesday, January 26, 2022, in Room 488, 625 Fisgard St., Victoria, BC

EP = Electronic Participation

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

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

Also Present: Arts Advisory Council (AAC) via EP: J. Verano, Chair; C. Caravaca, EDI Sub-Committee Chair

Absent: W. Gardner, G. Lemon

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 pm.

1 Territorial Acknowledgement

2 Approval of Agenda

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

CARRIED

3 Adoption of Minutes

MOVED by Member Green, **SECONDED** by Member Roessingh,
That the minutes of the November 17, 2021, Arts Commission meeting be adopted as previously circulated.

CARRIED

4 Chair's Remarks

Chair Loveday greeted Joanna Verano, the newly-elected Chair of the AAC, and Chris Caravaca, the continuing Chair of the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Subcommittee of the AAC. He welcomed them and the re-elected Funding Chair of the AAC, Rachel Ditor, and expressed appreciation for having them in their positions to continue the AAC work and lead in the work of EDI. He felt it would be an exciting and important year ahead. He spoke of the agenda item which is the first report with implementation steps for EDI, and remarked on undoing barriers to access.

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 Loveday introduced J. Verano and she expressed thanks for the welcome. She gave a short summary of her work history and education, and the importance to her of serving on the AAC.

J. Verano provided an update on the work of the AAC. After the summer break, the AAC welcomed newly-appointed members to the Council, and worked hard in preparation for the operating grants adjudication. In reading the applications, it could be said that it had been a challenging year for arts organizations. However, many were good at pivoting and resiliency; some did well by changing the way they operate, looking at other opportunities, increasing skills at presenting digitally and reaching audiences wider than the local area. Challenges remain due to decreased revenue, and some organizations are changing venues, and some leaders are stepping down and new leaders coming on. Many organizations took the time to look at their organization through the EDI lens.

The AAC was also involved in setting up the EDI Committee and with the Arts Champions Summit. Overall, with the pandemic ongoing, there was still a lot of impact of limited and restricted audiences. Some of the presentations either got cancelled or postponed, but still there is that optimism that things will improve.

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

6.1.2 Arts Advisory Council Minutes for Information

6.1.3 Arts Advisory Council *Activities by Council Summary*

MOVED by Member Green, **SECONDED** by Member Roessingh,
That the Minutes of 11 January 2022 and *Activities by Council Summary* of 11 January 2022 be received for information.

CARRIED

6.2 Outreach Update (Verbal)

Chair Loveday remarked on the success of the recent Arts Champions Summit.

V. Jeevanandam provided highlights of how the Arts Champions Summit went. She spoke of the number and demographics of registrants, and some results of the feedback survey. She also spoke of the main topics that had come up during the Summit, such as a call for urgency and embodiment of EDI policies that would be of benefit to marginalized community, and expansion of what constitutes art and what is fundable. A full, written report will come forward to a later meeting.

MOVED by Member Green, **SECONDED** by Member Roessingh,
That the verbal Outreach Update be received for information.

CARRIED

6.3 Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Lens on Project-Based Grants, Phase 1

C. Gilpin provided highlights of the report. C. Caravaca and J. Verano provided comment on the work of the EDI Sub-Committee.

Clarification by staff in response to Commission questions and discussion by the Commission included the following points:

- The CRD is still working on ways to include First Nation governments in light of the participating jurisdictions eligibility criteria. Although currently Band councils cannot apply to the arts service, on the other hand, First Nations non-profit organizations or collectives have been eligible and successful.
- There is a mechanism to aid groups in determining whether to apply. When an organization requests an application, they receive contact with the Arts Support Service Manager to talk through all the criteria and determine if they meet the basic requirements for eligibility.
- In support of all applications, there are information sessions explaining the application form and process, and staff available to answer enquiries.
- Outreach would be done to educate potential applicants about new questions on the forms dealing with equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI), in addition to the information sessions and staff responses to enquiries.
- The modifications to the IDEA, Incubator, Equity and Projects grant programs for an EDI lens were done while keeping foremost in mind that there are aspects of the current project based grants that are well-designed, with strong accountability; they are short and direct, and do not require lengthy applications. Ways to combine or reduce non-relevant questions and maintain succinctness were used.

MOVED by Member Hundleby, **SECONDED** by Member Roessingh,

1. That EDI Lens Phase 1 modifications to the IDEA, Incubator, Equity, and Projects grant programs be implemented for application intakes starting in spring 2022
2. That the Implementation Framework for the EDI Lens Integration guide future phases of program and policy development.

CARRIED

6.4 2022 Annual Operating Grant Recommendations

C. Gilpin provided highlights of the report. Commission discussion and clarification by staff included the following points:

- appreciation for the volume of work involved in the adjudication
- One organization was affected by the change in eligibility requiring financials over \$90,000. After a grace period and a series of communication, they understood their eligibility to apply for the revamped projects grant with extended programming or small operating program for small organizations instead of an operating grant.
- appreciation for the resilience of the art community and arts organizations to respond to the challenging time for the arts and to still operate and provide such necessary cultural service and beauty to our community

MOVED by Member Roessingh, **SECONDED** by Member Hundleby,
That the Operating Grant recommends for 2022 be approved as presented.

CARRIED

7 New Business: There was no new business.

8 Adjournment

MOVED by Member Green, **SECONDED** by Member Hundleby,
That the meeting be adjourned at 4:47 p.m.

CARRIED

CHAIR

RECORDER