

ARTS COMMISSION

Notice of Meeting on **Wednesday, May 22, 2024, at 4:00 p.m.**
Room 488, 4th Floor, 625 Fisgard Street, Victoria, BC; and Electronic Participation

M. Alto (Chair)
P. Brent

D. Cavens
S. Epp

D. Lajeunesse
G. Lemon

C. Plant
K. Roessingh

C. Smart

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
3. Adoption of Minutes of March 27, 2024

Recommendation: That the minutes of the Arts Commission meeting of March 27, 2024, be approved.

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: May 14, 2024 - for information
 - 6.1.3. Arts Advisory Council *Activities by Council Summary*: May 14, 2024 – for information
 - 6.2. Manager's Report (verbal)
 - 6.2.1 Outreach Report (written)
 - 6.3 Incubator & Equity 2024 Grant Recommendations

Recommendation: The Arts Advisory Council recommends to the Arts Commission:
That the 2024 Incubator Grant recommendations be approved as presented, and
That the 2024 Equity Grant recommendations be approved as presented.

Attachments: Staff Report: 2024 Incubator and Equity Grant Recommendations
Appendix A: 2024 Incubator Grant Recommendations and Summaries
Appendix B: 2024 Equity Grant Recommendations and Summaries

*Commissioners: To ensure quorum,
please advise Erin Sterling (esterling@crd.bc.ca) if you or your alternate cannot attend.*

6.4 IDEA 2024 Grant Recommendations

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

Attachments: Staff Report: 2024 IDEA Grant Recommendations
Appendix A: 2024 IDEA Grant Recommendations and Summaries

6.5 CRD Arts & Culture: 2023 Impact Report

Recommendation: 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.

Attachments: Staff Report: CRD Arts & Culture: 2023 Impact Report
Appendix A: CRD Arts & Culture: 2023 Impact Report
Appendix B: Presentation of 2023 Impact Report
Appendix C: List of 2023 Grant Recipients

7. New Business

8. Correspondence: Thank you letter from Impulse Theatre
Thank you letter from Newcombe Singers

9. Adjournment

Next Meeting: June 26, 2024



Making a difference...together

Minutes of a Meeting of the ARTS COMMISSION
Held March 27, 2024, in Room 488, 625 Fisgard St., Victoria, BC

EP = Electronic Participation

Members Present: M. Alto (Chair), D. Cavens, S. Epp, D. Lajeunesse, G. Lemon (EP),
C. Smart (EP), K. Roessingh (EP)
Staff: C. Gilpin, Manager, Arts & Culture Service;
A. Gibbs, Community Outreach Coordinator,
E. Sterling, Administrative Assistant (recorder)
Also present: Arts Advisory Council: Vice Chair, S. Reid
Regrets: P. Brent, C. Plant

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

1 Territorial Acknowledgement

Chair Alto provided a Territorial Acknowledgement, reflecting on what a privilege it is to do our work on these territories. Speaking from the main office of the CRD, we are on the traditional, as well as contemporary, territories of the Songhees Nation and Esquimalt Nation. Chair Alto invited members to reflect daily on how our decisions and actions can reflect the greeting “Hych’ka Siem” – our thanks and honouring of those nations on whose territories we work.

2 Approval of Agenda

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

CARRIED

3 Adoption of Minutes

MOVED by Member Lajeunesse, SECONDED by Member Cavens,
That the minutes of the January 24, 2024, Arts Commission meeting be adopted.

CARRIED

4 Chair’s Remarks – None

5 Presentations/Delegations – None

6 Commission Business

6.1 Arts Advisory Council (AAC) Report (verbal)

AAC Vice Chair Reid provided the following update:

Grant adjudication season is in full swing, so AAC members are busy reading applications: Equity and Incubator grants are currently being scored and IDEA grants will start adjudication next week. The AAC met earlier this month to review the results of the adjudication for the January Project Grants, which will be presented later in this meeting. There was an increase in the number of Project Grant applications, and many were of high quality and reflect high quality projects that will be receiving CRD funding.

The AAC is glad to be invited by the Arts Commission to their May meeting and members are looking forward to collaborating and getting to know each other better.

Vice Chair Reid noted the arts activities that members have been able to experience to enhance their knowledge of the arts sector throughout the region.

6.1.2 Arts Advisory Council Minutes March 12, 2024 – received for information

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

Chair Alto noted her appreciation for the activity summary, as it reminds her of how many different arts opportunities there are in the region.

6.2 Manager's Report (verbal)

C. Gilpin reported on the following:

- Three online information sessions were scheduled for spring: and two have been held with above average attendance and one is scheduled for tomorrow.
- Equity, IDEA, Incubator grant programs closed March 14th, with 15 Equity, 3 Incubator, and 20 IDEA grant applications received, which are above average numbers. Funding recommendations from those programs will come back to the Arts Commission in May. The April Project grant intake is still open until April 18th.
- As highlighted in the Outreach report, the CRD Arts Division was contacted by the Canada Council about connecting its new CEO, Michelle Chowla, to the local arts community. We invited senior staff from the BC Arts Council so that local arts leaders could give feedback to two main funders. Approximately 25 local arts leaders asked questions for an hour. Feedback from the Canada Council was that it was a model of engagement.
- H. Heywood retired today. We welcome E. Sterling as the new administrative assistant.

**MOVED by Member Epp, SECONDED by Member Cavens,
To receive the Manager's Report.**

CARRIED

6.3 Advancing Goal #1 of CRD Arts & Culture Support Service's Strategic Plan

C. Gilpin introduced the staff report, reminding members that it came out of the November 22nd Arts Commission meeting from a motion arising. Moving forward, staff are recommending they focus on advocating for a regional approach for arts funding through the outreach and communications plan. The report also recommends that, as elected officials, the Commission members take the lead on championing the arts service to the non-participating jurisdictions.

Questions were raised and the following points were made:

- Chair Alto noted that she had accompanied staff to presentations so that she could do the lobbying work while staff presented the facts.
- Langford is the jurisdiction that showed the strongest interest in joining the service. Their Council recommended a new arts & culture strategy for the first quarter of 2025.
- There is an ongoing conversation at the CRD Board about prioritizing Arts & Culture, i.e. encouraging a higher threshold of participation.

**MOVED by Member Cavens, SECONDED by Member Lajeunesse,
That Arts Commission members continue to advance Goal #1 of the 2024-27 Strategic Plan through championing the value proposition of participating in the CRD Arts Service and that staff include an emphasis on raising awareness about the benefits of a regional approach to arts funding through the upcoming outreach and communications plan.**

CARRIED

6.4. January 2024 Project Grant Recommendations

C. Gilpin introduced the recommendations:

- 35 applications this intake. 23 applications were recommended for funding:
 - o The top two applications were exemplary and recommended to receive full funding of their request;
 - o 21 other applications were assessed above the satisfactory level and would receive partial funding; and
 - o 12 applications were below satisfactory level and would not be funded.
- Scaling grant amounts allows us to fund a greater number of applications.
- Unsuccessful applicants are eligible to apply again for the April intake deadline if they wish.

Questions arose and the following points were made:

- The distribution of project grants changes from year to year. It is dependent upon the number and quality of applications received.
- Feedback is given to unsuccessful applicants but we do not give options for other grants to apply for. Arts Commission members could direct applicants to local grant opportunities.

**MOVED by Member Roessingh, SECONDED by Member Lemon,
That the Arts Advisory Council recommends to the Arts Commission:
That the January 2024 Project Grant recommendations be approved as presented.**

CARRIED

Member Cavens and Chair Alto thanked staff and the Arts Advisory Council for their work.

7 New Business - None

8 Correspondence - None

9 Adjournment

**MOVED by Member Cavens, SECONDED by Member Lajeunesse,
That the meeting be adjourned at 4:43 pm.**

CARRIED

CHAIR (Marianne Alto)

RECORDER (Erin Sterling)

Meeting Minutes Arts Advisory Council

Tuesday, May 14, 2024

5:00 PM

Via Video Conference

PRESENT

Members: M. Chan, R. Ditor, S. Donaldson, C. Haska, S. Reid (Acting Chair), J. Smillie, J. Verano

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

Regrets: C. Caravaca, R. Gale, W. Greaves, A. Hershberg, E. Mushumanski

The meeting was called to order at 5:09 pm.

1. Territorial Acknowledgement

Acting Chair Reid provided a Territorial Acknowledgement.

2. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was accepted by consensus.

3. Adoption of Minutes

**MOVED by R. Ditor, SECONDED by C. Haska,
That the minutes of the Arts Advisory Council meeting of March 12, 2024
be adopted as circulated. CARRIED**

4. Chair's Report

Acting Chair Reid attended that Arts Commission meeting in March to present the January Program Grant recommendations. She is looking forward to the joint meeting on May 22.

5. Manager's Report

Manager Gilpin reported on the following:

- Organizations in the Arts Sector are relocating, restructuring, expanding, or considering mergers.
- There is a proposal to build a stand-alone art gallery on the parking lot across from Capital Iron.
- The Performing Arts Facilities Select Committee is being relaunched and could take a significant amount of his time, as he would be the staff support to the committee.
- AAC members are invited to next week's Arts Commission meeting, to present funding recommendations and see the presentation of the 2023 Impact Report.

The group agreed that funding recommendation questions would be fielded by S. Donaldson and C. Gilpin, but any specific questions about the Equity/Incubator adjudication could be directed to J. Verano, and questions about IDEA grant adjudication could be directed to C. Haska.

6. Incubator & Equity 2024 Grant Recommendations

MOVED by S. Donaldson, **SECONDED** by C. Haska,

That the Arts Advisory Council recommends to the Arts Commission:

**That the 2024 Incubator Grant recommendations be approved as presented;
and**

**That the 2024 Equity Grant recommendations be approved as presented,
with the exception of the Victoria Nikkei Cultural Society. CARRIED**

S. Donaldson recused herself from the meeting at 5:37 pm due to a potential conflict of interest.

MOVED by J. Smillie, **SECONDED** by R. Ditor,

That the Arts Advisory Council recommends to the Arts Commission:

**That the 2024 Equity Grant recommendation for the Victoria Nikkei Cultural
Society be approved as presented. CARRIED**

S. Donaldson returned to the meeting.

7. IDEA 2024 Grant Recommendations

MOVED by C. Haska, **SECONDED** by S. Donaldson,

That the Arts Advisory Council recommends to the Arts Commission:

**That the 2024 IDEA Grant recommendations be approved as presented.
CARRIED**

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

9. Correspondence – none

10. Adjournment

The May 12, 2024 Arts Advisory Council meeting was adjourned at 5:58 pm.

Chair

Recorder

Arts Advisory Council Meeting: Tuesday, May 14, 2024 – ABCs

AAC members recently attended the following events in the region:

780 Blanshard Open Studio Tour by The Ministry of Casual Living (x 2)

Art Gallery of Greater Victoria: Kali Spitzer: Bodies of, Bodies Within; Linny D Vine: Wild Magic Show & Sale; Crossing: Art, Heritage & Personal Journeys with Yukie Kono, Chrystal Phan, Andy Lou; and In the Flesh: The Nude in Art, Past and Present

Ballet Victoria: Dracula

Belfry Theatre: Clown Fish

Dance Victoria: Ballets Jazz Montréal: Essence

Design Victoria: Unbuilt Victoria, Pecha Kucha, Soviet Bus Stops film, On The Boards with Bianca Bodley + Andrew Van Egmond

Esquimalt High School: Mean Girls (High School Edition)

Farquhar at Uvic: Dakhabrakha – Tour for Ukraine

Gallery Merrick: Donovan Rose opening

Intrepid: Black & Rural by Pi Theatre

Newcombe Singers: Sakura: Songs from the Tree of Life

Pacific Opera Victoria: The Marriage of Figaro

Royal Bay Secondary School: The Magician's Nephew

SNAFU: Epidermis Circus

St. Luke's Players: They Promised Her the Moon

State + Story x Design Victoria event

UVIC Orion Lecture Series in Fine Arts: Skawennati

UVIC Legacy Art Galleries: Latent with Lynda Gammon

Victoria Nikkei Cultural Society: Japanese Garden interpretive historic plaques launch

Victoria Symphony: La Nef – Sea Songs and Shanties

Wonderheads: The Wilds

And out of town:

Aga Khan Museum (Toronto ON) - Shezad Dawood: Night in the Garden of Love

McMichael Canadian Art Collection (Kleinburg ON) - Ghosts of Canoe Lake: New Work by Marchel Dzama; Cobalt: A Mining Town and the Canadian Imagination

Lunchbox Theatre (Calgary AB): The Ballad of Georges Boivin

OUTREACH REPORT

Arts Commission Meeting, May 22, 2024

The following is a short summary of the outreach activities undertaken since the last Arts Commission meeting on March 27th:

2023 Impact Report

- Completed & ready for review

2024 Spring Grants Intake Launch Completed

- Updates published on webpage
- Social media posts/stories shared on X, Facebook & Instagram; featured in newsletter
- Print ads ran in 8 publications across the CRD
- Digital ad reached 7,500+ users

2024 Spring Grants Information Sessions

- Published on CRD event calendar
- Posts shared on Facebook, Instagram & X; registration linked in newsletter
- 50 registrants for Equity / IDEA / Incubator Info session
- 21 registrants for April Project Grants Info session

IN PROGRESS:

- 2024-27 Communications & Outreach Plan
- Website content audit (in preparation for new CRD website migration)

**REPORT TO ARTS ADVISORY COUNCIL
MEETING OF TUESDAY, MAY 14, 2024**

SUBJECT 2024 Incubator and Equity Grant Recommendations

ISSUE SUMMARY

The adjudication committee for the 2024 Incubator and Equity Grants 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.

Incubator Grants are intended to enhance sustainability and resiliency in the arts by funding short-term staffing, mentoring, workspace, training, or other resources that assist in the acceleration of organizational development or, in the development of new arts projects. They are aimed at newly founded or emerging organizations with an arts mandate.

Three applications were received at the 2024 intake of the Incubator Grants program, which is in line with previous years (see Table 1).

Table 1. Incubator Grant Program: Recent Funding History

Year	# eligible applications	# awards	Success Rate	Total Request	Total Awarded	Average Request	Average Award
2020	2	2	100%	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$5,000	\$5,000
2021	2	2	100%	\$9,000	\$9,000	\$4,500	\$4,500
2022	0	0	n/a	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
2023	2	2	100%	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$5,000	\$5,000
2024	3	3	100%	\$13,850	\$8,500	\$4,617	\$2,833

Equity Grants are intended to support applicants that face systemic barriers to accessing support through other CRD Arts and Culture Service funding programs. Equity Grants is unique among CRD funding programs as it allows a non-profit society to function as a “Sponsor Society”, on behalf of an Equity applicant that is not a society.

15 applications were received at the 2024 intake of the Equity Grants program, in line with the previous year (see Table 2). In total, seven applications came from first-time applicants. A notable trend in this program is that applications from non-profit organizations embedded in equity-seeking communities have a much higher success rate than groups or individuals from equity-

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

seeking communities applying through a Sponsor Society. This is largely due to the track record of community engagement that established non-profit organizations show in their applications.

Table 2. Equity Grant Program: Recent Funding History

Year	# eligible applications	# awards	Success Rate	Total Request	Total Awarded	Average Request	Average Award
2020	4	2	50%	\$19,000	\$9,000	\$4,750	\$4,500
2021	5	5	100%	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$5,000	\$5,000
2022	8	8	100%	\$39,700	\$37,950	\$4,963	\$4,744
2023	14	8	57%	\$131,668	\$55,000	\$9,405	\$6,875
2024	15	10	67%	\$128,507	\$51,150	\$8,567	\$5,115

An adjudication committee of three Council members and one external adjudicator met in April 2024, via videoconference, to consider three Incubator Grant applications and fifteen Equity Grant applications. These application groups were not in competition with one another as they are separate grant programs. 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. The adjudicators assessed and scored each of the applications using a matrix that reflects the desired outcomes of the program in the areas of:

- The proposed project
- The benefits and impacts for the group, their community and the regional community
- An understanding of the intended audience
- Accessibility considerations
- Partnerships or collaborations
- Budget and projected expenses and revenues

Scores were reviewed to ensure there was a consensus on the merits of the information provided. The scoring methodology provided a comparative assessment of the merits of each proposal relative to the program's published goals and intended outcomes.

In Incubator Grants, three applications are recommended for funding at the full amount of their request. In Equity Grants, ten applications are recommended for funding with a top tier of three applications at 75% of their request and a middle tier of seven applications at approximately 50% of their request. By scaling award amounts back from the full amount of the applicant request, a greater number of projects can be activated with funding support from this program.

ALTERNATIVES

Alternative 1

The Arts Advisory Council recommends to the Arts Commission:

1. That the 2024 Incubator Grant recommendations be approved as presented.
2. That the 2024 Equity Grant recommendations be approved as presented.

Alternative 2

That this report be referred to staff for additional information.

IMPLICATIONS

Ratification and approval of the recommendations will allocate \$51,150 to the 2024 Equity Grant program and \$8,500 to the 2024 Incubator Grant program for a total of \$59,650. Because the full budget (\$15,000) of Incubator Grants was not required in the allocation to its applicants, \$1,150 of the Incubator Grants budget was transferred to the Equity Grants program and \$5,350 was transferred to the IDEA Grants program (see Table 3 for all granting program budgets and allocations). IDEA Grants had a record high number of applications and a modest increase to the IDEA Grants budget can fund more applications because the maximum request amount is lower. In total, \$98,000 was budgeted for the 2024 Incubator, Equity, and IDEA granting programs and that exact amount has been allocated to applications across those three programs.

Table 3. Update on Arts Granting Budget for the CRD Arts and Culture Support Service

Granting Program	2024 Budget	2024 Allocated	2024 Paid Out
Operating Grants	\$2,306,270	\$2,306,270	\$222,734
Project Grants	\$280,000	\$140,000	\$140,000
Equity Grants	\$50,000	\$51,150	\$0
Incubator Grants	\$15,000	\$8,500	\$0
IDEA Grants	\$33,000	\$38,350	\$0
Total	\$2,738,363	\$2,598,363	\$362,734

Equity and Incubator Grants will be paid out by the end of May 2024, pending approvals. The remaining portion of the Operating Grant funding will be paid out at the beginning of August 2024.

CONCLUSION

The adjudication committee has assessed all applications received at the 2024 Incubator Grant and Equity Grant deadline. The thirteen projects recommended for grants will fulfil the desired purpose and outcomes of the Incubator Grants and Equity Grants programs.

RECOMMENDATION

The Arts Advisory Council recommends to the Arts Commission:

1. That the 2024 Incubator Grant recommendations be approved as presented.
2. That the 2024 Equity Grant recommendations be approved as presented.

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

Appendix A: 2024 Incubator Grant Recommendations and Summaries

Appendix B: 2024 Equity Grant Recommendations and Summaries

2024 INCUBATOR RecommendationsRequest Grant
Recmd

SGL	Island Chamber Winds	3,850	2,500
Saanich	Timetheft Theatre Society	5,000	5,000
Victoria	V.I. Visual Arts Society	5,000	1,000

Total

13,850

1,000

2024 Incubator Recommendation Summary

Island Chamber Winds

Org. Location SGI

Project Title Chamber Music Concert Series

Previous Funding

New

Proj. Start Date 01/06/2024

Event Location Saanich, SGI

Grant Request:	3,850
Grant Recommended:	2,500

Project Summary

We are planning a concert series which will include two or three shows, featuring eight players of wind and brass instruments, and the music of living composers. The program will be based on Stravinsky's Octet for Wind Instruments.

Comments on Recommendation

This was a first-time applicant to CRD Arts & Culture granting programs. This application scored at a middling level, due to lack of clarifying detail, but still high enough required to fulfill the goals and intended outcomes of the Incubator Grant program. In keeping with the focus of Incubator Grants to develop future capacity, and in providing leniency to first-time applicants, the recommendation is for funding support at two-thirds of the grant request.

2024 Incubator Recommendation Summary

Timetheft Theatre Society

Org. Location Saanich

Project Title Endgame

Previous Funding

New

Proj. Start Date 9/08/2024

Event Location Victoria

Grant Request:	5,000
Grant Recommended:	5,000

Project Summary

This summer Timetheft Theatre is planning to produce the one act tragic comedy Endgame written by Samuel Beckett.

Comments on Recommendation

This was a first-time applicant to CRD Arts & Culture granting programs. It was the top-ranking application received at this granting intake. This application scored above the level required to fulfill the goals and intended outcomes of the Incubator Grant program. The recommendation is for funding support at the full amount of the grant request.

2024 Incubator Recommendation Summary

V.I. Visual Arts Society

Org. Location Victoria

Project Title Vault Gallery Programming 2024

Previous Funding

2023, \$5000

Proj. Start Date 1/06/2024

Event Location Victoria

Grant Request: 5,000

Grant Recommended: 1,000

Project Summary

Programming for the Vault Gallery including artist fees, curatorial fees, promotion, and painting supplies.

Comments on Recommendation

This application scored the lowest in this Incubator Grant program intake, due to a severe lack of detail about the project. It scored below the average level in explaining how the project would develop capacity in the organization, approach to accessibility, and benefits to equity-seeking groups; however, because the final report showed that the organization has delivered this program in the past, and because of VIVAS’ strong reputation in the artist community, the recommendation is to provide a \$1,000 grant to show support for the project concept and follow up with feedback on basic grant-writing requirements.

2024 EQUITY Grant Recommendations		Request	Grant Recommended
Organization	Bayanihan Cultural & Housing	10,000	5,000
Community	Indigenous, racialized persons of colour		
Project Lead	n/a		
Event Location	Victoria		
Organization	BC Black History Awareness	10,000	7,500
Community	Indigenous, racialized persons of colour, LGBTQ2		
Project Lead	n/a		
Event Location	TBD		
Organization	Downtown Blanshard Advisory	8,445	0
Community	Racialized persons of colour, LGBTQ2, physical disability, mental illness		
Project Lead	Judy Woo		
Event Location	Victoria		
Organization	Function Arts & Culture Assn	10,000	5,000
Community	Racialized persons of colour, LGBTQ2		
Project Lead	n/a		
Event Location	Victoria		
Organization	Ministry of Casual Living	6,000	0
Community	Physical disability; mental illness		
Project Lead	Phoenix Sophia		
Event Location	Saanich, Victoria		
Organization	Monoceros Education Society	10,000	7,500
Community	LGBTQ2, physical disability, mental illness		
Project Lead	n/a		
Event Location	Victoria; CRD wide		
Total		128,507	51,250

2024 EQUITY Grant Recommendations		Request	Grant Recommended
Organization	Oasis Society	5,000	2,500
Community	Indigenous, physical disability and mental illness challenges		
Project Lead	n/a		
Event Location	Victoria		
Organization	Ptarmigan Art Society	6,675	0
Community	Indigenous, LGBTQ2		
Project Lead	Johnny Aitken		
Event Location	SGI		
Organization	Pulcherie Mboussi Foundation	10,000	0
Community	Racialized persons of colour		
Project Lead	n/a		
Event Location	Victoria		
Organization	Resonance Collective	10,000	5,000
Community	LGBTQ2, mental illness		
Project Lead	Luna Piscetta		
Event Location	Victoria		
Organization	SNAFU	5,887	2,800
Community	LGBTQ2, mental illness, neurodivergence		
Project Lead	Holly Brinkman		
Event Location	Victoria		
Organization	Tah'lum Indigenous Artists	10,000	0
Community	Indigenous, racialized people, LGBTQ2, mental illness		
Project Lead	Jesse Campbell		
Event Location	Saanich		
Total		128,507	51,250

2024 EQUITY Grant Recommendations

		Request	Grant Recommended
Organization	Victoria Dragon Boat Festival	10,000	5,200
Community	Racialized persons of colour (Chinese rooted)		
Project Lead	n/a		
Event Location	Victoria		
Organization	Victoria Nikkei Cultural Society	10,000	7,500
Community	Racialized persons or people of colour – specify: Japanese Canadian/Nikkei		
Project Lead	n/a		
Event Location	Esquimalt		
Organization	West Coast Reach Association	6,500	3,250
Community	Deaf, physical disabilities, developmental disability		
Project Lead	n/a		
Event Location	Saanich and Oak Bay		
Total		128,507	51,250

2024 Equity Grant Recommendation Summary

Applicant Bayanihan Cultural & Housing Society

Project Lead n/a

Community Indigenous, racialized persons of colour

Project Title Dance theatre production: Maria Cacao and Typhoon Sendong

Start Date 1/09/2024

Project Location Victoria

Grant request:	10,000
Grant recommended:	5,000

Previous Funding (Project Lead):

2021, \$5000 (returned); 2023, \$5,000

Project Summary

The project is a dance theatre depiction of Filipino folklore, Maria Cacao, a myth that originated from the City of Argao in the Visayas region, Philippines.

Comments on the recommendation

This application scored above the level required to fulfill the goals and intended outcomes of the Project Grant program. It ranked in the middle seven applications received at this granting intake. The recommendation is for funding support at half of grant request based on similar reductions to other applicants that scored in the same tier.

2024 Equity Grant Recommendation Summary

Applicant BC Black History Awareness Society

Project Lead n/a

Community Indigenous, racialized persons of colour, LGBTQ2

Project Title Vibes & Verses

Start Date 01/08/2024

Project Location TBD

Grant request:	10,000
Grant recommended:	7,500

Previous Funding (Project Lead):

2023, \$8000

Project Summary

Vibes & Verses is a showcase of Black artists, writers, actors, poets, spoken word performers, storytellers, dancer and musicians.

Comments on the recommendation

This application scored above the level required to fulfill the goals and intended outcomes of the Project Grant program. It ranked in the top three of all applications received at this granting intake. The recommendation is for funding support at three-quarters of the grant request based on similar reductions to other applicants that scored in the top tier.

2024 Equity Grant Recommendation Summary

Applicant Downtown Blanshard Advisory Committee

Project Lead Judy Woo

Community Racialized persons of colour, LGBTQ2, physical disability, mental illness

Project Title Nature's Canvas - celebrating inclusion

Start Date 01/06/2024

Project Location Victoria

Grant request:	8,445
Grant recommended:	0

Previous Funding (Project Lead):

new

Project Summary

Kay Gallivan has agreed to facilitate this project which will involve painting a mural for a city neighbourhood association garden shed. Participants will be community members with all levels of ability and it will be accessible to all.

Comments on the recommendation

This application scored in the bottom third of all applications and did not demonstrate the necessary permits and approvals that would be required to complete the project. 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.

2024 Equity Grant Recommendation Summary

Applicant Function Arts & Culture Assn

Project Lead n/a

Community Racialized persons of colour, LGBTQ2

Project Title The Function Festival

Start Date 15/06/2024

Project Location Victoria

Grant request:	10,000
Grant recommended:	5,000

Previous Funding (Project Lead):

New NFP (applied for festival through a SS in 2023)

Project Summary

The Function is a vibrant Black, Indigenous, and People of Colour (BIPOC) hip hop and afro beats music and cultural indoor festival in Victoria, committed to celebrating diversity and providing a platform for local and international artists.

Comments on the recommendation

This application scored above the level required to fulfill the goals and intended outcomes of the Project Grant program. It ranked in the middle seven applications received at this granting intake.
The recommendation is for funding support at half of grant request based on similar reductions to other applicants that scored in the same tier.

2024 Equity Grant Recommendation Summary

Applicant Ministry of Casual Living

Project Lead Phoenix Sophia

Community Physical disability; mental illness

Project Title A Feminine Experience in Psychiatry Mural

Start Date 01/06/2024

Project Location Saanich, Victoria

Grant request:	6,000
Grant recommended:	0

Previous Funding (Project Lead):

new

Project Summary

The project will produce a large-scale, mixed media mural that will showcase a connection of women in psychiatric care who are unexpressed and underrepresented in the regional arts community despite having a strong artistic passion, creative ideas and skills.

Comments on the recommendation

This application scored in the bottom third of all applications and scored below a satisfactory level in the assessment category of accessibility and included significant ineligible activities in the budget. It is not recommended for support at this time.

2024 Equity Grant Recommendation Summary

Applicant Monoceros Education Society

Project Lead n/a

Community LGBTQ2, physical disability, mental illness

Project Title Queer Crafternoon

Start Date 01/06/2024

Project Location Victoria; CRD wide

Grant request:	10,000
Grant recommended:	7,500

Previous Funding (Project Lead):

2021, \$5000; 2022, \$5000; 2023, \$8000

Project Summary

The project is to run, improve, and grow our Queer Crafternoon events which are free, low-barrier, supportive crafting social events and workshops for the queer community under the principles of accessibility, inclusivity, and social justice.

Comments on the recommendation

This application scored above the level required to fulfill the goals and intended outcomes of the Project Grant program. It ranked in the top three of all applications received at this granting intake. The recommendation is for funding support at three-quarters of the grant request based on similar reductions to other applicants that scored in the top tier.

2024 Equity Grant Recommendation Summary

Applicant Oasis Society

Project Lead n/a

Community Indigenous, physical disability and mental illness challenges

Project Title Carving Space

Start Date June 1, 2024

Project Location Victoria

Grant request:	5,000
Grant recommended:	2,500

Previous Funding (Project Lead):

2018, \$4000; 2021, \$5000; 2022, \$5000

Project Summary

Carving Space is a new pilot project intended to carve space for the revival of wood carving practices, integral to healing, for Indigenous persons experiencing multi-generational trauma that is rooted in culture and identity.

Comments on the recommendation

This application scored above the level required to fulfill the goals and intended outcomes of the Project Grant program. It ranked in the middle seven applications received at this granting intake.
The recommendation is for funding support at half of grant request based on similar reductions to other applicants that scored in the same tier.

2024 Equity Grant Recommendation Summary

Applicant Ptarmigan Art Society

Project Lead Johnny Aitken

Community Indigenous, LGBTQ2

Project Title Medicine: a music video

Start Date 1/07/2024

Project Location SGI

Grant request:	6,675
Grant recommended:	0

Previous Funding (Project Lead):

2018, \$0; 2019, \$5000; 2020, \$5000

Project Summary

Funding will pay for the time and expenses it will take Johnny to film all the necessary footage for this video including his transportation between Mayne and Pender Island. All footage will be filmed on Pender and Mayne Islands during the Summer of 2024 and the music video will be complete by October 30, 2024. The music video will be released around the same time.

Comments on the recommendation

This application scored in the bottom third of all applications and scored below a satisfactory level in multiple assessment categories, including details on the expected audience, accessibility, and partnerships. It is not recommended for support at this time.

2024 Equity Grant Recommendation Summary

Applicant Pulcherie Mboussi Foundation

Project Lead n/a

Community Racialized persons of colour

Project Title African Music Instruments Immersive Activity

Start Date 20/06/2024

Project Location Victoria

Grant request:	10,000
Grant recommended:	0

Previous Funding (Project Lead):

new

Project Summary

The project is an African Music Instruments Immersive Activity aimed at bringing the vibrant rhythms and cultural heritage of traditional African music to Centennial Square.

Comments on the recommendation

This application scored in the bottom third of all applications and scored below a satisfactory level in multiple assessment categories, including description of personnel, details on the expected audience, and partnerships. It is not recommended for support at this time.

2024 Equity Grant Recommendation Summary

Applicant Resonance Collective

Project Lead Luna Piscetta

Community LGBTQ2, mental illness

Project Title Trans Community Building through Performance Art & Mentorship

Start Date 01/07/2024

Project Location Victoria

Grant request:	10,000
Grant recommended:	5,000

Previous Funding (Project Lead):

new

Project Summary

Funding to subsidize costs for an Artistic Event Series featuring an all trans artist lineup designed to engage and connect Trans and Genderqueer Community, to support Mentorship/Support from community Artists to foster new/emergent talent within community in performance art (DJ, Drag, Spoken Word), and to support the creation of a digital interface / online platform (e.g. discord) for connection, conversation and artistic expression.

Comments on the recommendation

This application scored above the level required to fulfill the goals and intended outcomes of the Project Grant program. It ranked in the middle seven applications received at this granting intake. The recommendation is for funding support at half of grant request based on similar reductions to other applicants that scored in the same tier.

2024 Equity Grant Recommendation Summary

Applicant SNAFU

Project Lead Holly Brinkman

Community LGBTQ2, mental illness, neurodivergence

Project Title A Woman's Guide to Peeing Outside and Storytelling for Inclusion

Start Date 2/06/2024

Project Location Victoria

Grant request:	5,887
Grant recommended:	2,800

Previous Funding (Project Lead):

new

Project Summary

A Woman's Guide to Peeing Outside and Storytelling for Inclusion is a 3-day event including 2 shows and a workshop spanning both Saturday and Sunday afternoons.

Comments on the recommendation

This application scored above the level required to fulfill the goals and intended outcomes of the Project Grant program. It ranked in the middle seven applications received at this granting intake.

The recommendation is for funding support at half of grant request based on similar reductions to other applicants that scored in the same tier.

2024 Equity Grant Recommendation Summary

Applicant Tah'lum Indigenous Artists Collective Society

Project Lead Jesse Campbell

Community Indigenous, racialized people, LGBTQ2, mental illness

Project Title Lansdowne North Gateway Project

Start Date 1/09/2024

Project Location Saanich

Grant request:	10,000
Grant recommended:	0

Previous Funding (Project Lead):

new

Project Summary

The project is a mural at three locations within the Lansdowne middle school North Campus main Foyer. The designs which reflect the school community's core values as well as create a visible presence of Métis and First Nations art within the entryway of the school, including sections of designs which can be painted with groups of students.

Comments on the recommendation

This application scored in the bottom third of all applications and scored below a satisfactory level in multiple assessment categories, including description of personnel and how the project contributes to the development of art in the CRD. It is not recommended for support at this time.

2024 Equity Grant Recommendation Summary

Applicant Victoria Dragon Boat Festival

Project Lead n/a

Community Racialized persons of colour (Chinese rooted)

Project Title Canada Dry Victoria Dragon Boat Festival

Start Date 08/08/2024

Project Location Victoria

Grant request:	10,000
Grant recommended:	5,200

Previous Funding (Project Lead):

2023, \$8000

Project Summary

The 2024 Festival will add a new educational aspect and feature a new international standard 200M race course as well as a streamlined site on land. Funding supports: stage performances, roaming cultural programming, and demonstrations/community exhibitors from cultural non-profit organization.

Comments on the recommendation

This application scored above the level required to fulfill the goals and intended outcomes of the Project Grant program. It ranked in the middle seven applications received at this granting intake. The recommendation is for funding support at half of grant request based on similar reductions to other applicants that scored in the same tier.

2024 Equity Grant Recommendation Summary

Applicant Victoria Nikkei Cultural Society

Project Lead n/a

Community Racialized persons or people of colour – specify: Japanese Canadian/Nikkei

Project Title The Japanese Garden Public Art Project

Start Date 01/06/2024

Project Location Esquimalt

Grant request:	10,000
Grant recommended:	7,500

Previous Funding (Project Lead):

new

Project Summary

The Japanese Garden Public Art project is intended as a fully collaborative and iterative initiative undertaken by Japanese Canadian and Indigenous practitioners and will result in a permanent outdoor public artwork at the Japanese Garden/Pavilion area in Esquimalt Gorge Park.

Comments on the recommendation

This application scored above the level required to fulfill the goals and intended outcomes of the Project Grant program. It ranked in the top three of all applications received at this granting intake. The recommendation is for funding support at three-quarters of the grant request based on similar reductions to other applicants that scored in the top tier.

2024 Equity Grant Recommendation Summary

Applicant West Coast Reach Association

Project Lead n/a

Community Deaf, physical disabilities, developmental disability

Project Title REACH Diverse-Ability Performing Co & Show

Start Date 11/09/224

Project Location Saanich and Oak Bay

Previous Funding (Project Lead):

2018 EQ, \$0

Grant request: 6,500

Grant recommended: 3,250

Project Summary

The project includes rehearsals of the REACH Diverse-Ability Performing Co. leading up to their hosting and performing in the primary show/event in Victoria commemorating the International Day of Persons With Disabilities and Human Solidarity Day.

Comments on the recommendation

This application scored above the level required to fulfill the goals and intended outcomes of the Project Grant program. It ranked in the middle seven applications received at this granting intake.

The recommendation is for funding support at half of grant request based on similar reductions to other applicants that scored in the same tier.

**REPORT TO ARTS ADVISORY COUNCIL
MEETING OF TUESDAY, MAY 14, 2024**

SUBJECT 2024 IDEA Grant Recommendations

ISSUE SUMMARY

The adjudication committee for the 2024 IDEA Grant 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 IDEA Grant program supports and encourages initiatives by non-arts mandated organizations, or those that may not otherwise be eligible for other CRD programs, to develop and use arts initiatives in the delivery of their mandates.

20 received applications were eligible for adjudication in the 2024 intake of the IDEA Grant program, which is the highest number of applications received since the IDEA grant program was reintroduced in 2019 (see Table 1).

Table 1. IDEA Grant Program: Recent Funding History

Year	# eligible applications	# awards	Success Rate	Total Request	Total Awarded	Average Request	Average Award
2020	18	13	72%	\$53,000	\$38,000	\$2,944	\$2,923
2021	18	13	72%	\$51,875	\$35,000	\$2,882	\$2,692
2022	17	16	94%	\$50,480	\$32,050	\$2,969	\$2,003
2023	13	11	85%	\$36,560	\$31,000	\$2,812	\$2,818
2024	20	15	75%	\$52,600	\$38,350	\$2,630	\$2,557

No applications were ruled ineligible by staff.

An adjudication committee of three Council members met in May 2024, via videoconference, to consider 20 eligible 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. The adjudicators assessed and scored each of the applications using a matrix that reflects the desired outcomes of the program in the areas of:

- Project description (clarity and impetus)

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

- Key personnel
- Fulfillment of the goals of the IDEA program
- Knowledge of the target audience
- Reasonableness of budget and 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. Regional distribution of funding was also a key consideration in forming the recommendations.

Eight applications are recommended for funding at the full amount of their request. Seven applications are recommended for funding at a scaled back amount in order to activate as many good projects as possible. Five applications are not recommended for funding due to low scores and multiple other concerns (see Appendix A for details).

ALTERNATIVES

Alternative 1

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

Alternative 2

That this report be referred to staff for additional information.

IMPLICATIONS

Ratification and approval of the recommendations will allocate \$38,350 to the 2024 IDEA Grant program. Because the full budget of Incubator Grants was not required in the allocation to its recipients, \$5,350 was transferred to the IDEA Grants program and \$1,150 was transferred to the Equity Grants program (see Table 3 for all granting program budgets and allocations).

IDEA Grants had a record high number of applications and a modest increase to the IDEA Grants budget can fund more applications because the maximum request amount is lower. In total, \$98,000 was budgeted for the 2024 Incubator, Equity, and IDEA granting programs and that exact amount has been allocated to applications across those three programs.

Table 3. Update on Arts Granting Budget for the CRD Arts and Culture Support Service

Granting Program	2024 Budget	2024 Allocated	2024 Paid Out
Operating Grants	\$2,306,270	\$2,306,270	\$222,734
Project Grants	\$280,000	\$140,000	\$140,000
Equity Grants	\$50,000	\$51,150	\$0
Incubator Grants	\$15,000	\$8,500	\$0
IDEA Grants	\$33,000	\$38,350	\$0
Total	\$2,738,363	\$2,598,363	\$362,734

IDEA Grants will be paid out by the end of May 2024, pending approvals. Advances on Operating Grants were paid in April, where requested. The remaining portion of the Operating Grant funding will be paid out at the beginning of August 2024.

CONCLUSION

The adjudication committee has assessed all eligible applications received at the 2024 IDEA Grant deadline. The 15 projects recommended for a grant will fulfil the desired purpose and outcomes of the IDEA Grant program.

RECOMMENDATION

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

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

Appendix A: 2024 IDEA Grant Recommendations and Summaries



Making a difference...together

2024 IDEA Grant Recommendations

			REQUEST	GRANT RECOMMENDED
Victoria	New	Cook St. Village Activity Centre Society (New	3,000	1,500
Victoria		Cook St. Village Business Association	3,000	2,500
Sooke	New	Edward Milne Community School Society	3,000	2,500
Victoria		Fernwood Community Assn	3,000	0
Victoria		Friends of Bowker Creek Society	1,000	0
Sooke	New	Friends of Sooke Parks	3,000	3,000
SGL	New	Galiano Trails Society	3,000	1,950
Victoria	New	Greater Victoria Social Gathering Place Society	2,920	2,920
Sooke		Harmony Project Sooke	3,000	3,000
Victoria		Int'l Institute for Child Rights & Development	3,000	3,000
Saanich		Jewish Community Centre of Victoria	3,000	3,000
Victoria		Oaklands Community Association	3,000	2,500
Saanich	New	Thrive Social Services Society	1,730	0
Saanich	New	Vancouver Island Cordillera Assn	2,970	2,500
Victoria		Victoria Brain Injury Society	3,000	2,500
Victoria	New	Victoria Camera Club	2,000	0
Victoria		Victoria Downtown Residents Assn	3,000	3,000
Totals:			52,600	38,350



Making a difference...together

2024 IDEA Grant Recommendations

			REQUEST	GRANT RECOMMENDED
Victoria		Victoria Hospice Society	3,000	3,000
Victoria	New	Victoria Italian Assistance Centre	1,480	1,480
Victoria	New	Victoria Stroke Recovery Assn	1,500	0

Totals: 52,600 38,350

2024 IDEA Grants - Recommendation Summary

Cook St. Village Activity Centre Society (New)

Org location Victoria

Project Title Strength Within Writing Program

Start date Jun 4, 2024

Project location Victoria

Grant Request	3,000
Grant Recommended	1,500

Previous Funding:

None (New application).

Project description

Memoir writing project for members of New Horizons.

Comments on the Recommendation

This application scored above the level required to fulfill the goals and intended outcomes of the IDEA 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.

Cook St. Village Business Association

Org location Victoria

Project Title The Village Block Party

Start date Jun 9, 2024

Project location Victoria

Grant Request	3,000
Grant Recommended	2,500

Previous Funding:

2023, \$3000

Project description

5th Annual Village Block Party is a free, all-ages local arts event.

Comments on the Recommendation

This application scored above the level required to fulfill the goals and intended outcomes of the IDEA 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.

2024 IDEA Grants - Recommendation Summary

Edward Milne Community School Society

Org location Sooke
Project Title Sooke Arts and Culture Podcast
Start date Sep 1, 2024

Project location Sooke

Grant Request	3,000
Grant Recommended	2,500

Previous Funding:

None (New application).

Project description

Sooke Arts & Culture Podcast. This is a student created weekly podcast highlighting Sooke arts & culture events, interviews with local artists and organizers, featuring local music.

Comments on the Recommendation

This application scored above the level required to fulfill the goals and intended outcomes of the IDEA 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.

Fernwood Community Assn

Org location Victoria
Project Title Little Fernwood Gallery Monthly Shows
Start date Jun 1, 2024

Project location Victoria

Grant Request	3,000
Grant Recommended	0

Previous Funding:

2022, \$2000 (grant returned)

Project description

Support for the Little Fernwood Gallery monthly exhibitions

Comments on the Recommendation

This application did not achieve an average score that indicated it could fulfill the goals and intended outcomes of the IDEA grant program. It scored in the bottom quartile of applications, below a satisfactory level in accessibility considerations, benefits to the art form or broader community, and engagement of equity-seeking groups or underrepresented arts and cultural practices. This application is not recommended for support at this time.

2024 IDEA Grants - Recommendation Summary

Friends of Bowker Creek Society

Org location Victoria
Project Title WoW - Walk on Water
Start date Jul 1, 2024

Project location Victoria

Grant Request	1,000
Grant Recommended	0

Previous Funding:

2019, \$3000; 2020, \$3000; 2021, \$3000; 2022, \$2000;
2023, \$1000

Project description

The project envisions a pop-up installation of pavement painting - a graphic representation of a watercourse - on the sidewalk above the storm sewer line containing the flow of Bowker Creek. This installation uses a visual prompt (painted river 'flow'), along with adjacent signage and a chance to interact digitally with visual and sound files.

Comments on the Recommendation

This application did not achieve an average score that indicated it could fulfill the goals and intended outcomes of the IDEA grant program. It scored in the bottom quartile of applications, below a satisfactory level in fulfilling the purposes of the IDEA Grant program, accessibility considerations, benefits to the art form or broader community, engagement of equity-seeking groups or underrepresented arts and cultural practices, and evaluation of project budget. This application is not recommended for support at this time.

Friends of Sooke Parks

Org location Sooke
Project Title Spooky Pumpkin Walk & Solstice Lantern Walk
Start date Nov 1, 2024

Project location Sooke

Grant Request	3,000
Grant Recommended	3,000

Previous Funding:

None (New application).

Project description

Our Spooky Pumpkin Walk featured over 300 creatively carved pumpkins the day after Halloween, in Pineridge Park, placing them along the forest trail or delivering to volunteers and returning later to find their pumpkins glowing along the trail. At the end of the event, the pumpkins were delivered to local farmers for compost and feed, helping both farmers and removing bear attractants (pumpkins) from our streets.

The Solstice Lantern Walk was an invitation to create hand-made lanterns and join community members of all ages to walk through John Phillips Memorial Park on the longest night of the year.

Comments on the Recommendation

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

2024 IDEA Grants - Recommendation Summary

Galiano Trails Society

Org location SGI
Project Title Arts on the Trails
Start date Jul 1, 2024

Project location Galiano Island

Grant Request	3,000
Grant Recommended	1,950

Previous Funding:

None (New application).

Project description

Earth art on the trails is a seasonal art event where participants will walk the trails with Alana Hansen as an artist facilitator to create impermanent artwork inspired by the earth's offerings. At the end of the earth art trail walk, Alana will take photographs of each individual creation and will provide an e-copy to all participants who wish to remember their artwork.

Comments on the Recommendation

This application scored at the level required to fulfill the goals and intended outcomes of the IDEA Grant program. The recommendation is for funding support based on considerations related to regional distribution at an amount lower than their full request based on their placement in the overall ranking.

Greater Victoria Social Gathering Place Society

Org location Victoria
Project Title Art for Mental Wellness
Start date Sep 3, 2024

Project location Victoria

Grant Request	2,920
Grant Recommended	2,920

Previous Funding:

None (New application).

Project description

Our project is a 12-week series of Art for Mental Wellness workshops, held at the Victoria Event Centre. Led by local artists, each session will span an hour, offering community members the chance to delve into various art forms and unleash their creativity.

Comments on the Recommendation

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

2024 IDEA Grants - Recommendation Summary

Harmony Project Sooke

Org location Sooke
Project Title Harmony Project Sooke
Start date Sep 3, 2024

Project location Sooke

Grant Request	3,000
Grant Recommended	3,000

Previous Funding:

2019, \$2000; 2020, \$3000; 2021, \$0; 2022 (application ineligible); 2023, \$3000

Project description

Harmony Project Society of British Columbia (Harmony Project Sooke) provides out of school arts and culture activities in the form of music instruction and performance opportunities for children and youth in the Sooke region; particularly those from underserved families.

Comments on the Recommendation

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

Int'l Institute for Child Rights & Development

Org location Victoria
Project Title Scale and Slide: co-designing a rights-based board game with children
Start date May 1, 2024

Project location Victoria

Grant Request	3,000
Grant Recommended	3,000

Previous Funding:

2019, \$3000; 2021, \$3000; 2022, \$2000

Project description

The proposed "Scales and Slides" project focuses on co-designing an arts-focused, rights-based board game with children. The International Institute for Child Rights and Development (IICRD) is requesting partnership support from the Capital Regional District (CRD) to develop and test a board game prototype to learn about child rights through engaging children (ages 5-12) in the Greater Victoria Area through visual arts, theatre, and puppeteering.

Comments on the Recommendation

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

2024 IDEA Grants - Recommendation Summary

Jewish Community Centre of Victoria

Org location Saanich
Project Title Victoria International Jewish Film Festival
Start date Nov 2, 2024
Project location Victoria

Grant Request	3,000
Grant Recommended	3,000

Previous Funding:

May 2015, \$2000; Jan 2016, \$2000; Mar 2020, \$3000; Mar 2021, \$3000; 2022, \$2000; 2023, \$3000

Project description

The [Victoria International Jewish Film Festival](#) (VIJFF), is now in its 10th year.

The objective of the VIJFF (as further detailed on its [website](#)) is to curate a program of *Captivating Cultural Cinema*—international films that reflect, in their portrayals of Jewish and Jewish-adjacent cultural themes and their intersections, the Jewish notion of [tikkun olam](#) (repair of the world), and films see an inter-cultural audience of residents of and visitors to the CRD engaged, enlightened, and entertained together!

Reflected in the VIJFF's wide appeal, broad outreach, and open accessibility, is that the VIJFF is expressly non-political and non-religious.

Comments on the Recommendation

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

Oaklands Community Association

Org location Victoria
Project Title Truth and Reconciliation Mural
Start date Jun 1, 2024
Project location Victoria

Grant Request	3,000
Grant Recommended	2,500

Previous Funding:

Feb 2013, \$0; Jan 2016, \$2000

Project description

Oaklands Community Association will work with artist Indigenous Artist Andrea Fritz to create an outdoor wall mural, bringing in other Indigenous and settler artists, and community members to design and create a piece of art commemorating and honoring residential school survivors, their stories, and their legacies. This is a placemaking project, a community-based mural involving community through: consultation, participation, education, engagement, and celebration.

Comments on the Recommendation

This application scored above the level required to fulfill the goals and intended outcomes of the IDEA 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.

2024 IDEA Grants - Recommendation Summary

Thrive Social Services Society

Org location Saanich
Project Title Community Living Services Art Project
Start date Jul 1, 2024

Project location Saanich

Grant Request	1,730
Grant Recommended	0

Previous Funding:

None (New application).

Project description

Our dream is to host a series of mobile, drop-in art activities open to the public this summer, culminating in a community art show in early fall. This is inspired partly by the TD Art Gallery (Moss street) Paint-In, and partly by a successful model of accessible art-making in Ontario called LivingRoom Community Art Studio (<https://www.livingroomcommunityartstudio.org/>).

We would host a minimum of six public sessions in July and August, and a number of private sessions as well.

Comments on the Recommendation

This application did not achieve an average score that indicated it could fulfill the goals and intended outcomes of the IDEA grant program. It scored in the bottom quartile of applications, below a satisfactory level in description of personnel, fulfilling the purposes of the IDEA Grant program, and evaluation of project budget. This application is not recommended for support at this time.

Vancouver Island Cordillera Assn

Org location Saanich
Project Title Cordillera Youth Cultural Mentorship Program
Start date Jul 1, 2024

Project location Victoria

Grant Request	2,970
Grant Recommended	2,500

Previous Funding:

None (New application).

Project description

Youth with Cordillera lineage will undergo a two-day mentorship activity to orient them on the Cordillera history, enable them to play Cordillera musical gongs, enable them to perform Cordillera dances, and familiarize them in the proper use Cordillera regalia and attire.

Comments on the Recommendation

This application scored above the level required to fulfill the goals and intended outcomes of the IDEA 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.

2024 IDEA Grants - Recommendation Summary

Victoria Brain Injury Society

Org location Victoria

Project Title Gratitude Cards

Start date Jun 1, 2024

Project location Victoria

Grant Request	3,000
Grant Recommended	2,500

Previous Funding:

May 2015, \$2000; Mar 2020, \$3000; Mar 2021, \$0; 2022, \$2000

Project description

Victoria Brain Injury Society has been successfully running an art therapy program for several years. Brain injury survivors within this specific project will participate in the art collective, in which each participant works on a hand-made card that reflects their gratitude reflecting their own unique experiences. At the end of the project, the cards will be mailed to chosen recipients of the cards.

Comments on the Recommendation

This application scored above the level required to fulfill the goals and intended outcomes of the IDEA 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.

Victoria Camera Club

Org location Victoria

Project Title VCC Print Show Highlighting a Day in the Life of Victoria

Start date Jun 1, 2024

Project location

Grant Request	2,000
Grant Recommended	0

Previous Funding:

None (New application).

Project description

One of our planned activities is "*A Day in the Life of Victoria*" 24-hour photoshoot on June 1. On this day our members will capture the daily life of the CRD over a 24-hour period. There will be a public website showing selected images from those captured by our members and a few of these will be highlighted in the public print show

A juried print show that highlights the work of our members. The show will be free. The show will feature both high quality colour and, black and white images taken by our members. This will take place in September for 2 - 3 weeks.

Comments on the Recommendation

This application did not achieve an average score that indicated it could fulfill the goals and intended outcomes of the IDEA grant program. It scored in the bottom quartile of applications, below a satisfactory level in clarity of project description, description of personnel, fulfilling the purposes of the IDEA Grant program, accessibility considerations, benefits to the art form or broader community, engagement of equity-seeking groups or underrepresented arts and cultural practices, and evaluation of project budget. Also, there was not enough detail in the application for the assessment team to conduct its necessary due diligence. This application is not recommended for support at this time.

2024 IDEA Grants - Recommendation Summary

Victoria Downtown Residents Assn

Org location Victoria

Project Title Music in the Parks

Start date Jun 27, 2024

Project location Victoria

Grant Request	3,000
Grant Recommended	3,000

Previous Funding:

2023, \$3000

Project description

We are requesting funding to host a series of free concerts in the three public parks in Downtown Victoria. Each concert will feature live performances by two local music acts, as well as a reading by a local poet.

The first concert will take place on June 27th in Cridge Park in conjunction with the start of the Pride festival. We plan on featuring a selection of artists who have performed at the monthly Queer Open Stage that we support. Potential performers include singer-songwriter Opal Dar and fiddle player Q.

We will host the second concert in Reeson Park on July 24th and the series will wrap up on August 27th on Pandora Green. Among the potential performers for these two concerts are newcomer Turkish musician Okan Yedikuvvet and Indigenous hip-hop artist Pindian.

Comments on the Recommendation

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

Victoria Hospice Society

Org location Victoria

Project Title Music Therapy

Start date

Project location

Grant Request	3,000
Grant Recommended	3,000

Previous Funding:

March 2019, \$3000; 2020, \$3000

Project description

Victoria Hospice is requesting support for our 2024 Music Therapy program, which is the only regular therapy providing service on the unit.

Comments on the Recommendation

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

2024 IDEA Grants - Recommendation Summary

Victoria Italian Assistance Centre

Org location Victoria

Project Title 1st Annual Victoria Italian Day

Start date

Project location

Grant Request	1,480
Grant Recommended	1,480

Previous Funding:

None (New application).

Project description

1st Annual Victoria Italian Day: the event will take place from 1:00pm to 5:00pm on Sunday, June 23, 2024 at the Da Vinci Centre. The event is meant to showcase and celebrate Italian culture in a variety of ways both in the parking lot as well as inside the hall. Outside is where most of the “market style” activities will take place. The public can view Italian cars and Vespas and partake in some traditional Italian activities including bocce and biliardino. There will be activities for children and families as well as Italian food vendors. On the main stage in the hall there will be a series of activities including a pasta making demonstration, a Venetian mask making demonstration and live music.

Comments on the Recommendation

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

2024 IDEA Grants - Recommendation Summary

Victoria Stroke Recovery Assn

Org location Victoria

Project Title Pilot Art Therapy Ceramic Painting Project with FireUp

Start date

Project location Victoria

Grant Request	1,500
Grant Recommended	0

Previous Funding:

None (new application).

Project description

Pilot Art Therapy Ceramic Painting Project: learn to paint ceramic items, that are then fired by FiredUp back at their shop and returned as hand painted, smooth colored design glazed on the ceramic that our stroke survivors can either gift to family or friends, or kept for their own use.

One of our staff Marie Shuman SLP told us that from her research art therapy had helped stroke survivors with their stroke recovery journey. She was also aware of the company FireUp and its ceramic painting workshops. We followed up, learned about the program, felt it was worth trying as a pilot and requested a quote.

Comments on the Recommendation

This application did not achieve an average score that indicated it could fulfill the goals and intended outcomes of the IDEA grant program. It scored in the bottom quartile of applications, below a satisfactory level in engagement of equity-seeking groups or underrepresented arts and cultural practices, and evaluation of project budget. This application is not recommended for support at this time.

**REPORT TO ARTS COMMISSION
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, MAY 22, 2024**

SUBJECT **CRD Arts and Culture: 2023 Impact Report**

ISSUE SUMMARY

The *CRD Arts and Culture: 2023 Impact Report* has been completed and is ready for review by the CRD Arts Commission before being forwarded to the CRD Board for information, distributed to councils, and made available to the public.

BACKGROUND

Produced annually, the *CRD Arts & Culture Impact Report* provides a glimpse into the social, economic, and artistic impact of the CRD Arts & Culture Support Service. From 2018 to 2021, this report was called a Progress Report. In 2022, after an organization-wide review, it has been renamed to “Impact Report,” which more accurately reflects its purpose as an outreach initiative to show the impact of CRD arts funding. The 2023 Impact Report will be distributed widely, leveraging CRD digital platforms, including mailing lists, e-newsletters, and social media.

In the previous two years, the Arts Commission has directed staff to advance the annual Impact Report to the CRD Board to raise awareness about the positive impact the service is having across the region; that direction is now incorporated into the staff recommendation.

The 2023 Impact Report presents information through infographics, statistics, images, and storytelling around two broad themes: 1) the extensive consultation process leading to the design and production of a new strategic plan (2024-27) for the Arts and Culture Support Service, and 2) the remarkable and robust return of audiences to arts activities in the first full year after pandemic restrictions had been lifted.

ALTERNATIVES

Alternative 1

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.

Alternative 2

That this report be referred back to staff for additional information.

IMPLICATIONS

Copies of the 2023 Impact Report will be distributed to councils of participating and non-participating jurisdictions, as well as the CRD Board. The report will be distributed to the regional arts community and broader public through links in the CRD Arts & Culture e-newsletter (which has over 800 subscribers), social media, and the CRD website.

To limit the environmental impact of printing, grant recipients are provided with a link to the impact report as a digital asset with the option to request a physical copy if they require it.

CONCLUSION

The 2023 Impact Report provides a glimpse into the crucial impact of CRD Arts and Culture grant funding and outreach activities. Once reviewed by the CRD Arts Commission and CRD Board, copies will be distributed to all jurisdictions and published on the CRD website.

RECOMMENDATION

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.

Submitted by:	Chris Gilpin, MPA, Manager, Arts & Culture
Concurrence:	Nelson Chan, MBA, FCPA, FCMA, Chief Financial Officer
Concurrence:	Ted Robbins, B. Sc., C. Tech., Chief Administrative Officer

ATTACHMENT

Appendix A: *CRD Arts and Culture: 2023 Impact Report*
Appendix B: Presentation of 2023 Impact Report
Appendix C: List of 2023 Grant Recipients



2023 Impact
Report

CRD
Arts & Culture

TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The CRD conducts its business within the traditional territories of many First Nations, including but not limited to BOKÉĆEN (Pauquachin), MÁLEXEŁ (Malahat), P'a:chi:da?aht (Pacheedaht), Pune'laxutth' (Penelekut), Sc'ianew (Beecher Bay), Songhees, SṪÁUTŬ (Tsawout), T'Sou-ke, WJOŁEŁP (Tsartlip), WSIKEM (Tseycum), and xʷsepsəm (Esquimalt), all of whom have a long-standing relationship with the land and waters from time immemorial that continues to this day.

We are committed to respectfully and appropriately engaging these First Nations in regional arts and culture strategies, decision-making and shared interests, recognizing that the attitudes, policies and institutions of colonization have changed Indigenous peoples' longstanding relationships with their artistic and cultural practices.



Organizational Overview

Capital Regional District (CRD) delivers regional, sub-regional and local services to 13 municipalities and three electoral areas on southern Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands. Governed by a 24-member Board of Directors, the CRD works collaboratively with First Nations and all levels of government to enable sustainable growth, foster community well-being, and develop cost-effective infrastructure, while continuing to provide core services to residents throughout the region.

CRD Arts and Culture Support Service (the Arts Service) is a sub-regional service supported by 9 jurisdictions providing grants to non-profit organizations for the development of local arts programming, creating artistic, social and economic benefits for the region.

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All photos within this report are provided (with our thanks) courtesy of grant recipients. Unless otherwise noted, images are of 2023 programming.

Cover: Dilly Crooner performs at **Friends of Bowker Creek Society’s** Creekside Concert in Oak Bay. Photo: Karissa Chandrakate.

Message from the Chair of the Arts Advisory Council

Each year, as I reflect on the successes of the organizations we were able to support, I am reminded of how fortunate we are to live in a region that benefits from such a robust, imaginative arts community. In 2023, this sentiment was echoed by audiences across the region, who came back after the pandemic to engage in-person with the arts in greater and greater numbers. Our arts community matched this growing enthusiasm, demonstrating a continued resiliency and dedication that was evident in a year filled with high-quality programming in all areas of artistic practice.

Over the past four years of the 2020-23 Strategic Plan, the Arts Service has been substantially improved in many ways. I'm especially proud of the important work our EDI Subcommittee has done to bring an equity, diversity, and inclusion lens to all of our granting programs, leading to multiple changes to the application and adjudication processes that have made our granting more accessible and more responsive, ultimately better supporting the full artistic and cultural potential of the region.

I am also particularly grateful to have been a part of the meaningful conversations we were able to have with the arts community over the past year as part of the consultation process for the Arts Service's new 2024-2027 strategic plan. We had the opportunity to engage with artists, advocates, and community



members – listening to their needs, concerns, and aspirations. I'm pleased to say that the insights gained from that dialogue are well-reflected in the new strategic plan, and will continue to shape how we approach our work for years to come.

In 2023, we thanked four outgoing Arts Advisory Council members for their service and have since welcomed three new members to the council who each bring their own unique background and expertise to adjudication. We are incredibly honored to have been a part of the Arts Service's many accomplishments in 2023, from developing a 2024-2027 Strategic Plan to distributing a record-high amount of funding to doubling the maximum ask amount for equity grants. We look forward to working with the Arts Commission and CRD staff to continue delivering the vital funding the arts community relies on, and to carry on the important conversations that were started last year.

Joanna **VERANO**
Chair, CRD Arts Advisory Council

Message from the Chair of the Arts Commission

This past year has been marked by a strong sense of transition and momentum as we completed our 2020-2023 strategic plan and embarked on the development of a new one. Over the last four years, the Arts Service has made significant progress toward increasing the impact of its funding across the region for the benefit of all communities, and the Arts Commission's commitment to this goal continues to be our driving force as we form our strategy for the next four.

At the outset of 2023, the newly appointed members of the Arts Commission set our sights on the future by launching an extensive community consultation process to inform the creation of a new strategic plan. Throughout the first half of the year, we were immersed in conversations with arts professionals, supporters, and audience members from across the region, whose insights have been instrumental in shaping new priorities, goals, and actions for the Arts Service. A highlight for me was emceeing the Arts Champions Summit that gathered over 100 arts leaders. The level of engagement during this process was tremendous, and the resulting 2024-2027 Strategic Plan is a reflection of our arts community's collective aspirations for a well-supported, thriving arts sector.

The Arts Commission and supporting staff are keenly aware that cultural policy cannot be formed in isolation, and requires first-hand experience of



current arts events so that we can better understand the impacts of our funding and policy decisions. With that in mind, it has been immensely rewarding to see our region's theatres, galleries, and concert halls filled with the energy and enthusiasm of in-person audiences. For me, watching this uptick of well-attended events and sold-out shows after the pandemic has reaffirmed the vital role that the arts continue to play in fostering connection, stimulating economic activity, building strong communities, and nourishing the human spirit.

As we continue to move forward with implementing the new strategic plan, I am filled with optimism for the future of the region's arts. The work we have done together over the past year has laid the groundwork to build more vibrant, resilient, and equitable communities, and a strong, well-supported arts sector that can continue to provide the inspiration so vital to fulfilling the lives of our region's residents.

Marianne **ALTO**
Chair, CRD Arts Commission



Supporting The Region's Arts

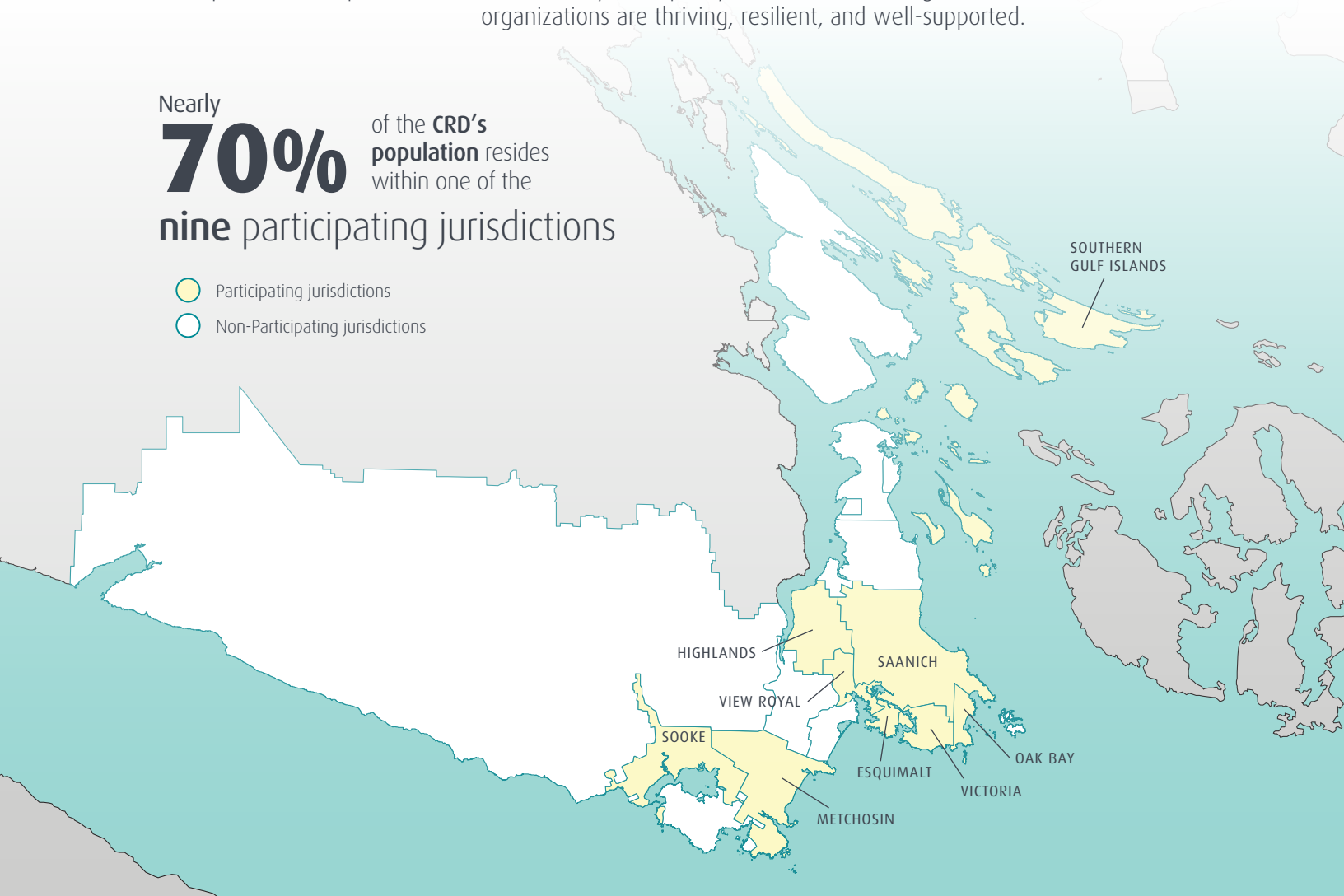
CRD Arts & Culture Support Service is a sub-regional service that distributes grants to non-profit organizations to develop local arts programming. Supported by nine jurisdictions, funding creates artistic, social and economic benefits for the region. Through outreach, the Arts Service fosters collaboration between arts organizations, funders and audiences.

Our mission: To support, champion & develop the arts.

Our vision: The arts are key drivers of community vitality, economic sustainability, and quality of life across the region, and artists and arts organizations are thriving, resilient, and well-supported.

Nearly
70% of the **CRD's population** resides within one of the
nine participating jurisdictions

-  Participating jurisdictions
-  Non-Participating jurisdictions





A crowd gathers to watch artists paint during the Trackside Paint Jam, organized by Esquimalt Community Arts Hub. Photo: Colin Smith.

Delivering on Our 2020–2023 Strategic Plan Priorities & Goals

2023 marked the end of our 2020-2023 Strategic Plan, which identified five key goals and priorities that have guided our operations and initiatives for the last four years. During that time, we've made significant progress on these goals, including these highlights:



INCREASE COMMUNITY AWARENESS

- ▶ 100% increase in grant applicants from 2020 to 2023
- ▶ Social media followers up 12%, e-newsletter subscribers up 3% since 2021
- ▶ Implemented regular information sessions, 100+ attendees to date



INCREASE PARTICIPATION AND FUNDING

- ▶ Continued to communicate benefits of the service across the region with presentations at council meetings, targeted mailings and social media content



MAKE ACCESS EQUITABLE

- ▶ Doubled the 2023 Equity Grant budget & maximum request amount
- ▶ Expanded eligibility & reduced complexity of Equity Grant applications & reporting
- ▶ Embedded more equity considerations into the application process & questions



SUSTAIN CREATIVITY

- ▶ Continued the delivery of granting programs throughout the Covid-19 pandemic
- ▶ Streamlined the application and reporting to alleviate administrative burdens



RESPOND TO GRANTING NEEDS

- ▶ Ongoing engagement with the arts sector to inform & implement necessary changes
- ▶ Record-high funding amount awarded in 2023, \$2.6 million

2023 FUNDING IMPACT

\$2.6 million
invested in arts through
our granting programs

93 grants
awarded
to local arts non-profits
& artist-led partnerships

5,297 arts
workers
employed by grant
recipients in 2023

45% increase
in Equity Grant funds
awarded over 2022

9,460+ arts
events
& performances activated
by grant recipients

928,580+
audience members,
participants & attendees

Kuba Oms performing at Cook Street Village
Block Party. Photo: Emma Rossum.

Developing a New Strategic Plan

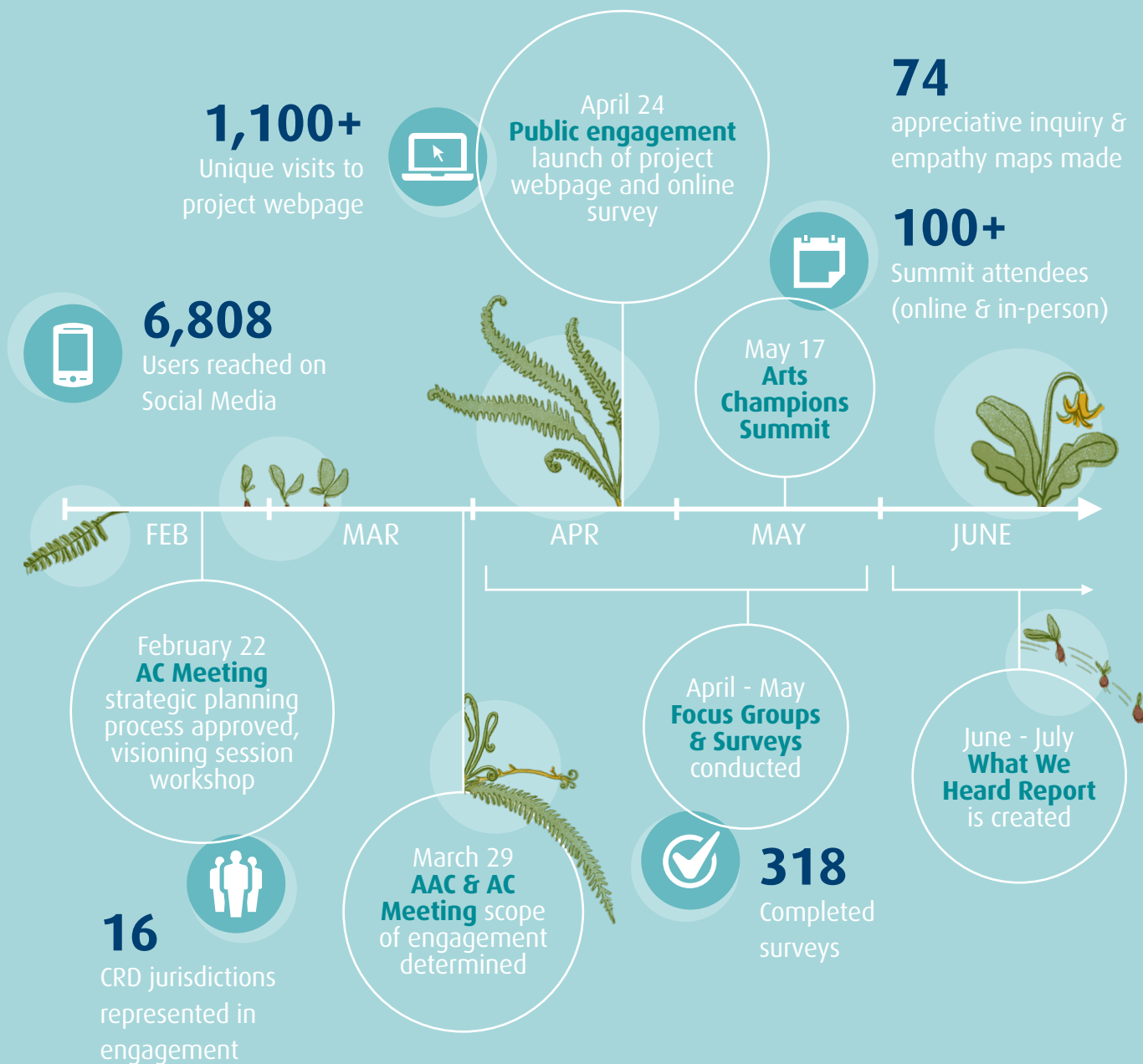
Consulting Our Community

As we wrapped up the 2020-2023 Strategic Plan, we also began looking ahead, developing a new 2024-2027 Strategic Plan, informed both by the learnings of the past four years, and from extensive community engagement with the region's arts community throughout the first half of 2023.

To ensure that the strategic planning process would be informed by community knowledge, CRD staff facilitated surveys, focus groups and an Arts Champions Summit to gather feedback about community needs and aspirations. We heard from artists, arts organizations, the Arts Advisory Council, rural arts leaders, staff from other arts funding agencies, and arts audiences, all of whom brought forward their own unique, invaluable perspectives.



A table group in discussion at the Arts Champions Summit. Photo by Dan Russek.





Arts Champions Summit promotional artwork by Ileya Iess



Above: Arts Champions Summit activity, in action. Photo by Dan Russek

What We Heard

After the engagement period concluded in the summer of 2023, we developed a **What We Heard Report**, which reflected the feedback received from the community. It laid out several key takeaways, some of which indicated that continuity with the previous strategic plan would be appropriate in certain areas:

- ▶ A regional approach to arts funding received widespread approval.
- ▶ There is a lack of awareness about which municipalities contribute to the service.
- ▶ Barriers to access funding continue to impact the arts community.
- ▶ There is a need for increases to arts programming funding.
- ▶ The arts community is experiencing growing challenges around affordability (both for individual artists and arts spaces) and infrastructure.
- ▶ There is a need to enhance opportunities for capacity-building (e.g. mentoring, organizational development, and partnerships).
- ▶ CRD Grant programs are relied upon as key supports by the arts sector - program structure is consistent with a mature and effective service.

Victoria Dragon Boat Festival
performers. Photo: Colin Smith.



The 2024–2027 Strategic Plan

In October of 2023, the Arts and Culture Support Service 2024-2027 Strategic Plan was finalized and approved by the Arts Commission. Informed by community knowledge, related CRD strategies, staff expertise and an updated vision and mission, the plan will guide our efforts over the next four years.

The 2024-2027 Strategic Plan consists of five new strategic priorities, each supported by corresponding goals and actions. The full plan, including supporting actions, can be found on our website at www.crd.bc.ca/arts.



CHAMPION – ADVOCATING FOR THE ARTS

- ▶ **Goal 1:** Scale up regional participation in the Arts Service to expand its scope and impact
- ▶ **Goal 2:** Raise awareness of the value of the arts to demonstrate how it contributes to economic sustainability, community vitality, and quality of life



CONNECT – ENHANCING COLLABORATION

- ▶ **Goal 3:** Foster collaboration and knowledge-sharing to boost organizational development
- ▶ **Goal 4:** Work collaboratively with all levels of government to connect arts organizations with support for arts spaces and other funding



CULTIVATE – DEVELOPING THE ARTS ECOSYSTEM

- ▶ **Goal 5:** Support the region's arts ecosystem to grow sustainably
- ▶ **Goal 6:** Align funding programs to respond to community needs



EXTEND – BROADENING THE SCOPE OF IMPACT

- ▶ **Goal 7:** Invest in under-served and marginalized communities to support the full artistic and cultural potential of the region.
- ▶ **Goal 8:** Reduce barriers to increase access to funding.



ENGAGE – SHARING OUR STORY AND LEARNING

- ▶ **Goal 9:** Diversify educational resources for grant applicants to enhance knowledge base
- ▶ **Goal 10:** Enhance the branding of the Arts Service to clarify its focus

THE CAPITAL REGION'S AUDIENCES ARE BOUNCING BACK

"We emerged from the pandemic lockdowns to [perform] to **sold-out houses**... we were encouraged by **great attendance** that included new members from immigrant communities from Chile, Brazil and Mexico"

– Atomic Vaudeville



Photo: Helene Cyr

Photo: Bill Cubitt



"[We] were very pleased to see an **increasing return of participants** for our Festival... We are very encouraged by this **strong response**"

– Greater Victoria Performing Arts Festival

"Last summer (2022) some audiences were still tentative to return after the pandemic. This summer **audiences were back in full force**"

– SNAFU Society of Unexpected Spectacles



Photo: Helene Cyr

photo: Jam Hamidi



"Even with the impact the Pandemic continues to have on our sector, **our audiences are expanding immensely**. A few years ago, we expected audiences in the hundreds. Now, they're in the thousands"

– Puente Theatre

Photo: Joshua Lawrence



"[We] considered this production **very successful**... We had the **entire show run sell out** over a month in advance, which helps indicate there is a need and desire for this work which we found very empowering"

– Noble Riot Dance Theatre Society

"The festival [was able to] **significantly increase audience attendance** for the 2023 Festival over the previous years attendance following the resumption of public concerts after the [pandemic]"

– Victoria Summer Music Festival



Photo: Victoria Photography Club

Photo: Jose Olan



"One of the highlights of our 2022/23 programming was Garden City Grooves Festival... the **highest attended festival to date**"

– Victoria BC Ska & Reggae Society

"**Ticket sales were stronger than expected during 2022/23.** We observed pre-pandemic audiences returning to the theatre, as well as new audiences joining our performances and programs"

– Dance Victoria



Photo: Thak Smith

Photo: Don Craig



"Last year, 50% of our single ticket buyers were new... **Post-pandemic growth trajectory is optimistic** and well above the national average"

– Belfry Theatre

Stories of Impact

The qualitative impact of funding is often most effectively conveyed through storytelling. Hear from funded organizations what they were able to accomplish with the help of CRD funding this year:



HELI,SET dancers at Campbell Bay Music Festival's WSÁNEĆ carved welcome post unveiling. Photo: Hannah Epperson.

CAMPBELL BAY MUSIC FESTIVAL

Project Grant | Southern Gulf Islands

The Campbell Bay Music Festival's Saturday Market Stage was a "highly successful and enlivening" event this year, says a representative from the festival. An audience of nearly 500 people gathered around the local agricultural hall outdoor stage to take in the remarks of indigenous elder J'SINTEN, followed by performances from local community choirs, fiddlers, music students, bluegrass bands and more.

Its success as a community event showcasing youth, local and indigenous musicians has even led to talks of making the Saturday Market Stage into its own independent event, rather than a segment of the summer festival, and opened up possibilities for increased collaboration with WSÁNEĆ musicians and artists in the community.

CINEVIC

Operating Grant | Victoria

A 2023 programming highlight, CineVic's 10th annual Short Circuit Pacific Rim Film Festival was their largest yet: "a seven-day run of in-person screenings, pitches, and artist networking events with more than 30 guest filmmakers and over 2400 total audience." The festival showcases both local and foreign artists and creators from across the Pacific Rim.

As one supporter put it, "CineVic does a wonderful job of facilitating independent film creation [and] finding the right balance of programs and support for a diverse range of indie filmmakers at all ability or experience levels."



Participants at a film production workshop presented by CineVic at Intrepid Studio. Photo: David Geiss.



Choral Evolution performing at Holy Trinity Church in Sooke. Photo: D. Titchkosky.

CHORAL EVOLUTION

Project Grant | Sooke

A highlight of Choral Evolution's Spring 2023 season was bringing on a professional bassist and a percussionist to accompany the choir at performances. The choir's newly enhanced performances were met with standing ovations and excited audience members who felt compelled to join the group themselves. "Music brings people together in wonderful ways," remarked a member whose own experience mirrored this audience-turned-member pipeline when they joined the group in 2022.

AVENTA NEW MUSIC

Operating Grant | Oak Bay

Recognized for their excellence in programming, the Globe and Mail has described Aventa Ensemble as having "a knack for putting contemporary compositions together."

This past year, the ensemble's programming highlights included the release of an album, a concert series, collaborative projects, and the development of an opera component. Showcasing local talent as well as introducing our region's audiences to visiting artists and composers, Aventa plays a vital role in the region's music community.



Aventa Ensemble performing Tremblay. Screen capture of Aventa's video recording.



Seven characters from various productions by the WONDERHEADS.
Masks: Kate Braidwood, photo: DesignEgg



Tilda (Kate Braidwood) and Wendell (Andrew Phoenix) in *The Wilds*
by WONDERHEADS. Masks: Kate Braidwood, photo: Tori Pinter

WONDERHEADS

Project Grant | Victoria

The WONDERHEADS create original productions in full-face mask, a wordless, whimsical style they describe as “visual storytelling”, or “living animation.” Full-face mask is an extremely virtuosic style of performance, and quite uncommon – the WONDERHEADS represent a very unique part of this region’s artistic community.

In 2023, the WONDERHEADS experienced a period of notable growth, touring their original stage production, *The Wilds*, across Vancouver Island, bringing the region’s arts to an even wider audience, and presenting *A WONDERHEADS Christmas Carol* for a three-week run at the Belfry theatre.

In the midst of this growth, the WONDERHEADS team looks to what’s next: “we do our best to hold that little spark cupped in our hands - the spark that started it all and asks us to explore questions about loss, love, mortality...the spark that inspires us to create with whimsy, curiosity, and playfulness...the spark that compels us to hold ourselves to the rigorous pursuit of artistic excellence... We are excited for what the future has to bring.”

We are pleased to share that the WONDERHEADS are now Operating Grant recipients as of February 2024.

HISPANIC FILM SOCIETY OF VICTORIA

Project Grant | View Royal

Self-described “promoters of inter-cultural exchanges,” the Hispanic Film Society’s mandate includes promoting Latin American and Spanish film-making, bringing the community together around a cultural event that is unique in the capital region.

In October of 2023, the Hispanic Film Society of Victoria put on the 13th Annual Latin American and Spanish Film Week at Cinecenta. The week’s events included a slate of five films, live music, salsa dancing, presentations, food tastings, poetry readings, dance performances and more. Through a partnership with the Department of Hispanic and Italian Studies at UVIC, the society was also able to expand the scope of the event to include academic presentations, broadening their reach and impact in the community.

PTARMIGAN ARTS

Operating Grant | Southern Gulf Islands

“Ptarmigan’s multi -generational music and arts programs are educational, joyful, powerful and meaningful experiences for everyone involved. Their work contributes to quality of life for everyone in our island communities” says David Howe, past CRD Director, Southern Gulf Islands.

Ptarmigan Arts provides high quality, diverse, inclusive and accessible arts programming in rural island communities that help to inspire creativity, and contribute to a sense of wellness and community belonging in an area that can often be isolated. Over the past fiscal year, Ptarmigan’s artistic programs, events and sponsorships allowed a wide variety of arts initiatives to thrive in Southern Gulf Island communities.

“Ptarmigan’s impacts are huge, ongoing and permanent,” underscores Heather Read, a Pender Island musician, “[they are] an absolute mainstay here and a major community hub... I was able to pretty much launch my career and take it to the next level because of their support.”



Salsa dancing at the Night of Latin Music with Pablo Cárdenas & the West Coast Cuban Orchestra. Photo: Dan Russek.



Community art workshop- making art with natural and recycled materials Photo: Rachel Lenkowski.

2023 Grant Recipients

EQ: Equity Grant ID: IDEA Grant INC: Incubator Grant OG: Operating Grant PG: Project Grant * new recipient



BC Accordion & Tango Society PG



Active/Passive Performance Society PG



Amber Academy Youth Fine Arts ID



Aventa Ensemble OG



BC Black History Awareness Society EQ*



Afro Latin Cultural Exchange Society PG



Art Gallery of Greater Victoria OG



Ballet Victoria OG



Belfry Theatre OG



Alter Arts Society PG



Atomic Vaudeville OG



Bayanihan Cultural & Housing Soc. EQ



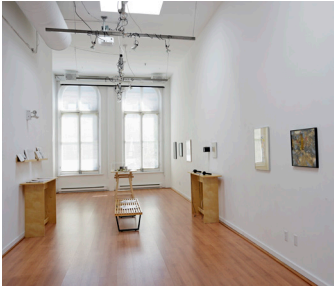
Blue Bridge Repertory Theatre PG



Bounce Performance Works [PG](#)



Choral Evolution [PG](#)*



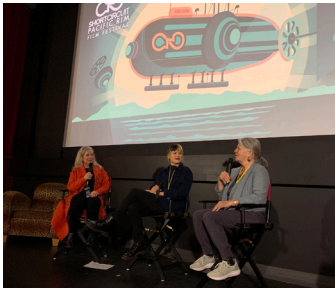
Deluge Contemporary Art [OG](#)



Farheen HaQ | Open Space [EQ](#)



Broken Rhythms [PG](#)



CineVic [OG](#)



Early Music Society of the Islands [OG](#)



Fifty Fifty Arts Collective [PG](#)



Campbell Bay Music Festival [PG](#)



Cook Street Village Business Association [IDEA](#)*



Embrace Arts Foundation [PG](#)



Flamenco de la Isla [PG](#)



Caravan World Rhythms [PG](#)



Dance Victoria [OG](#)



Esquimalt Community Arts Hub [PG](#)



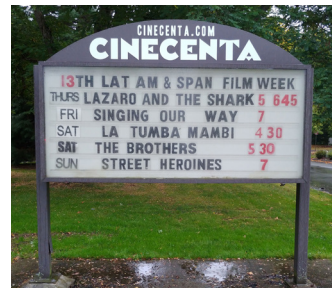
Friends of Bowker Creek [IDEA](#)



Galiano Conservancy Association [IDEA](#)★



Greater Victoria Youth Orchestra [OG](#)



Hispanic Film Society of Victoria [PG](#)



International Tea Appreciation Society [IDEA](#)★



Galiano Island literary Festival [PG](#)★



Hapax Theatre [PG](#)



Impulse Theatre [PG](#)



Intrepid Theatre [OG](#)



Garden City Electronic Music [PG](#)



Harmony Project Sooke [IDEA](#)



India Canada Cultural Association of Victoria [PG](#)



James Bay Community School [IDEA](#)★



Greater Victoria Performing Arts Festival [OG](#)



Haus of Owl Creation Lab [INC](#)★



Integrate Art Society [PG](#)



Jewish Community Centre of Victoria [IDEA](#)



John Aitken | Ptarmigan Arts [EQ](#)



Ministry of Casual Living [PG](#)



Pacific Opera Victoria [OG](#)



SNAFU Society of Unexpected Spectacles [OG](#)



Kaleidoscope Theatre for Young People [OG](#)



Monoceros Education Society [EQ](#)



Ptarmigan Arts [OG](#)



Sooke Arts Council [PG](#)



Kara Stanton | Integrate Art Society [EQ](#)★



Noble Riot Dance Theatre [PG](#)



Puente Theatre [OG](#)



Sooke Community Choir [PG](#)



MediaNet [OG](#)



Open Space [OG](#)



SingYourJoy Young Adult Chorus [PG](#)



Southern Gulf Island Community Resource Centre [IDEA](#)



Story Theatre OG



Theatre SKAM OG



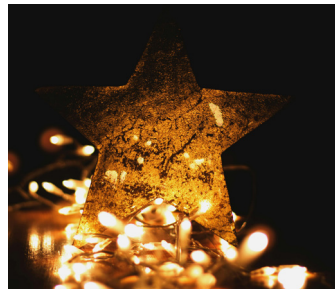
Victoria Arts Council OG



Victoria Choral Society PG



Suddenly Dance Theatre PG



Three on a Tree Productions Society PG



Victoria Baroque OG



Victoria Conservatory of Music OG



The Other Guise Theatre PG*



Vancouver Island Visual Arts Society INC*



Victoria BC Ska & Reggae Society OG*



Victoria Downtown Residents Association IDEA*



Theatre Inconnu OG



Veselka Ukrainian Dance PG



Victoria Children's Choir OG



Victoria Dragon Boat Festival EQ*



Victoria Festival of Authors [PG](#)



Victoria On Stage [OG](#)



Victoria Summer Music Festival [PG](#)



Wisser Developments Society [IDEA*](#)



Victoria Film Festival [OG](#)



Victoria Philharmonic Choir [PG](#)



Victoria Symphony [OG](#)



Wonderheads [PG](#)



Victoria Jazz Society [OG](#)



Victoria Poetry Project [PG](#)



Westshore Community Concert Band [PG*](#)



Xchanges Gallery & Studios [PG](#)



Victoria Native Friendship Centre [EQ](#)



Victoria Shakespeare Society [OG](#)



William Head on Stage [PG](#)



Yellowhouse Arts Centre [PG](#)

Image Credits & Attributions

Active/Passive Performance Society | Adam Startin performing at Active/Passive Vol.5. Photo: Dayna Szyndrowski.

Afro Latin Cultural Exchange Society | Afro beat group lead by Bonifacio at the Saturday night gala. Photo: Dominic Tioseco.

Alter Arts Society | MC & Drag performer Peaches and Screams perches on the stage. Photo: Colin Smith.

Amber Academy Youth Fine Arts | Society logo.

Art Gallery of Greater Victoria | Beading workshop with Connie Paul. Photo: Natalie Rollins.

Atomic Vaudeville | Kathleen Greenfield & Loreto Espinoza in *Pandemonium: Fear Freedom*. Photo: Helene Cyr.

Aventa Ensemble | Aventa records Gilles Tremblay's *Solstices*. Screen capture provided by Aventa.

Ballet Victoria | *Peter Pan*. Photo: Gail Takahashi.

Bayanihan Cultural & Housing Society | Society logo.

BC Accordion & Tango Society | Payadora Tango Ensemble. Photo: Alex Richardson (2022 programming).

BC Black History Awareness Society | The Function Headliner crowd/performer. Photo: Femi (@indulgentimages).

Belfry Theatre | Jenny Brizard & Matthew G. Brown in *Intimate Apparel* by Lynn Nottage. Photo: David Cooper.

Blue Bridge Repertory Theatre | Danica Charlie and Lucy McNulty in *Goodnight Desdemona (Good Morning Juliet)* by Ann-Marie McDonald. Photo: Jam Hamidi.

Bounce Performance Works | Promotional artwork for *Dracula Trilogy of Terror* adaptation by Brian Richmond.

Broken Rhythms | *Knotted* by Dyana Sonik-Henderson. Photo: Helene Cyr.

Campbell Bay Music Festival | HELI,SET dancers at the pole unveiling. Photo: Hannah Epperson.

Caravan World Rhythms | Trichy Sankaran performing with ensemble at Artsprint theatre. Photo: Robert Benaroya.

Choral Evolution | Full choir performance. Photo: D. Titchkosky.

CineVic | Filmmaker Q&A at the 12th annual Short Circuit Pacific Rim Film Festival. Photo: David Geiss

Cook Street Village Business Association | Cook Street Village Block Party. Photo: Emma Rossum.

Dance Victoria | Ballet Edmonton with Victoria Symphony in *LeQuattro*. Photo: Peter Pkorny.

Deluge Contemporary Art | *An un-containing of things—a fluttering, a dispersal, a profusion* installation by Fred Douglas,

curated by Nellie Lamb. Photo: Deluge Contemporary Art.

Early Music Society of the Islands | Consone String Quartet, quartet music on original instruments. Photo: John Fitzmaurice.

Embrace Arts Foundation | Briny. Photo: Tristan Tjosvold.

Esquimalt Community Arts Hub | Trackside Paint Jam artist painting. Photo: Colin Smith.

Farheen Haq & Open Space | Drawing images based on riverside meditation (2022 programming). Photo: Farheen Haq.

Fifty Fifty Arts Collective | Laura Rosengren exhibition. Photo: Laura Rosengren (2022 programming).

Flamenco de la Isla | Event at bandshell. Photo: Amity Skala.

Friends of Bowker Creek | TEALIYE/Brianna Bear at the Creekside Concert in Oak Bay. Photo: Karissa Chandrakate.

Galiano Conservancy Association | Harpist Mary Greenwood playing in 2023 Musical Walkalong. Photo: Andy Beers.

Galiano Island Literary Festival | Cedar Bowers, Geoff Inverarity, Giselle Vriesen & Kate Hennessey panel. Photo: Donna Usher.

Garden City Electronic Music | Isles (Grace Workman) (no comms form).

Greater Victoria Performing Arts Festival | Accordion player at Woodwinds Highlights Concert. Photo: Alyssa Hanke.

Greater Victoria Youth Orchestra | Summer Strings rehearsal at Philip T. Young Recital Hall at UVIC. Photo: Stefan Shandro.

Hapax Theatre | Society logo.

Harmony Project Sooke | *Music Reader* class Philharmonic Orchestra concert. Photo: Sheila Whincup.

Haus of Owl Creation Lab | *EMBER* poetry workshop with poet Xiao Yue Shan. Photo: Cole Jackson.

Hispanic Film Society of Victoria | Cinecenta's marquee for Latin American & Spanish Film Week. Photo: Dan Russek.

Impulse Theatre Society | Co-creator & performer Andrew Barret in *Soft Spaces*. Photo: Mackenzie Lawrence

India Canada Cultural Association of Victoria | 2019 programming photo.

Integrate Art Society | 2022 programming. Rose Cortez in *I Would Art Installation*, Photo: Venn de la Lune Photography

International Tea Appreciation Society | Society logo.

Intrepid Theatre Company Society | *Passenger Seat* by Library Performance Collective (Vancouver). Photo provided by artists.

James Bay Community School | Society logo.

Jewish Community Centre of Victoria | The 2023 marquee outside the Vic Theatre. Photo: Deborah Bricks.

John Aitken & Ptarmigan Arts | *Living on Unceded Land: A Settler's Perspective*. Screen capture provided by Johnny Aitken.

Kaleidoscope Theatre for Young People | Krystle Pederson as Grandmother Moon in *Frozen River*. Photo: Leif Norman.

Kara Stanton & Integrate Arts Society | Society logo.

Media Net | *The Story of the Dancing Heart* by Samay Arcentales Cajas. Still provided by Samay Arcentales Cajas.

Ministry of Casual Living | Teresa Vander Meer-Chassé's *Sisoo Oma Tjitske shah kut, sh'kut tuuk delt'al*. Photo: Ashley Ohtsijah Hall.

Monoceros Education Society | Queer Crafternoon artists: Claire, Sansal, Cameron, Erin, Luca, Lee. Photos: Celeste.

Noble Riot Dance Theatre | Kayla Henry, Alia Saurini, & Finley Rose in *Luminaries*, choreographed by Kayla Henry & Christina Medina. Photo: Joshua Lawrence.

Open Space | Tania Willard in *Daydreamer's Tea Service*. Photo: Armena Sharmin.

Pacific Opera Victoria | Co-creator, composer, & tenor Isaiah Bell in *The Book of My Shames*. Photo: Dahlia Katz.

Ptarmigan Arts | Community art workshop - making art with natural and recycled materials. Photo: Rachel Lenkowski.

Puente Theatre | Mirelle Fynes, Loreto Espinoza & Heather Watt in *GORGO* by Niah Davis. Photo: Jessica Burr.

SingYourJoy Young Adult Chorus | Performance at the Cridge Centre. Photo: SingYourJoy.

SNAFU Dance Theatre | William Robertson as *Vulture* in *New Earth Bandits*. Photo: Helene Cyr.

Sooke Arts Council | SAC President Sherry Robb painting the background.

Sooke Community Choir | Spring Sing Out with Sooke elementary school choirs. Photo: Sooke Community Choir.

Southern Gulf Island Community Resource Centre | BC World Music Collective Concert. Photo: Southern Gulf Island Community Resource Centre.

Story Theatre | Erica Petty's *Sound Garden*, 2022 Wee Peeks residency with Impulse Theatre. Photo: Impulse Theatre.

Suddenly Dance Theatre | Hoyeon Kim & Jung ah Chung in LUCKY MAYBE: HAENYEO episode 3. Photo: Miles Lowry.

The Other Guise Theatre | Skatepark shenanigans. Photo: Matthew Payne.

Theatre Inconnu | Cast of *The Black Rider; The Casting of the Magic Bullets* by Tom Waits & William S. Burroughs. Photo: Clayton Jevne.

Theatre SKAM | Loreto Espinoza and Jeni Luther in *Suitable Transpo: A Junk Puppet Spectacle* by Kathleen Greenfield at SKAMPede 2023. Photo: Haida Davies-McDermott.

Three on the Tree Productions Society | Stock image.

Vancouver Island Visual Arts Society | Emilie "Bertie" Berthiaume exhibition *Repos*, curated by Laveen Gammie. Photo: Laveen Gammie.

Veselka Ukrainian Dance | L'viv Hopak, *Lesia & the Giant Cherry*. Photo: Mitch Mihalynuk (2022 programming).

Victoria Arts Council | Untitled painting as seen on the VAC Old Town Billboard, Ingrid Mesquita / Victoria Arts Council.

Victoria Baroque | Summer Baroque Intensive Orchestra and vocalists. Photo: Kyrn Basu.

Victoria BC Ska & Reggae society | *Chali 2na & the House of Vibe* at Victoria Ska & Reggae Festival 2023. Photo: Rob Porter, RMS Media.

Victoria Children's Choir | Season Finale Concert: *Songs of Love and Light*. Photo: Meghan Robertson.

Victoria Choral Society | Stock image.

Victoria Conservatory of Music | Veselka Ukrainian dancers join the BC Fiddle Orchestra & Daniel Lapp on stage. Photo: Mark Nicol.

Victoria Downtown Residents Association | Tasha Cadence performs at Music in the Park in Cridge Park. Photo: James Davis.

Victoria Dragon Boat Festival | Performer at Victoria Dragon Boast Festival. Photo: Colin Smith.

Victoria Festival of Authors | Panelists & audience members at the beginning of Forest Poet/Tree Walk. Photo: Mike Andrew McLean.

Victoria Film Festival | Two young volunteers working at a screening. Photo provided by Victoria Film Fest.

Victoria Jazz Society | *Fantastic Negrito* at BC Smoke Shop Harbour Blues 'n Roots Festival 2023. Photo: Doug Featherston.

Victoria Native Friendship Centre | Society Logo.

Victoria On Stage | Dan Comeau as Plankton in *The SpongeBob Musical*. Photo provided by Victoria on Stage.

Victoria Philharmonic Choir | VPC choir. Photo: Megan Mather.

Victoria Poetry Project | Winnipeg Poet Laureate performing at Victorious Voices finals. Photo: Johnny McRae.

Victoria Shakespeare Society | Ciarán Volke & Michelle Naidu in *All's Well That Ends Well*. Photo: Lara Eichhorn.

Victoria Summer Music Festival Society | Victoria Summer Music

Festival Opening Concert 2023. Photo: Victoria Photography Club.

Victoria Symphony | Victoria Symphony performs at the 2023 Symphony in the Summer Festival. Photo: Kevin Light.

Westshore Community Concert Band | Concert. Photo: Marii

William Head on Stage | *Eavesdrop Café* Set. Photo provided by William Head on Stage.

Wiser Developments Society | Stock Image.

WONDERHEADS | *LOON*, the story of a man who falls in love with the moon. Photo & mask: Kate Braidwood.

Xchanges Gallery and Studios | Regan Rasmussen *Safety Within* exhibition. Photo provided by Xchanges.

Yellowhouse Art Centre Society | Dominic Conway of *Malleus Trio* in concert. Photo: Gord Gibbs.



ARTS ADVISORY COUNCIL

Arms-length volunteer group, responsible for adjudicating grants and providing advice to the Arts Commission

Cris Caravaca	Christina Haska
Rachel Ditor	Ari Hershberg
Sue Donaldson (Funding Chair)	Sarah Reid
Richard Gale	Joanna Verano (Chair)
Will Greaves	

ARTS COMMISSION

Elected representatives from participating jurisdictions, responsible for support and development of regional arts

ESQUIMALT	Duncan Cavens
HIGHLANDS	Karel Roessingh
METCHOSIN	Sharie Epp
OAK BAY	Carrie Smart
SAANICH	Colin Plant
SOOKE	Dana Lajeunesse
S. GULF ISLANDS	Paul Brent
VICTORIA	Marianne Alto (Arts Commission Chair)
VIEW ROYAL	Gery Lemon

CRD STAFF

Administers programs & provides support for regional arts decision making

Abby Gibbs	Heather Heywood
Chris Gilpin	Erin Sterling





Bassist & Vocalist Nik West jumps into the air on the TD Main Stage at Bullen Park, Esquimalt, during TD JazzFest 2023, put on by **Victoria Jazz Society**. Photo: Tony Kwon



Capital Regional District

625 Fisgard Street
Victoria, BC V8W 2S6
250.360.3215

www.crd.bc.ca/arts
[@crdartsculture](https://twitter.com/crdartsculture)

2023 Impact
Report

CRD
Arts & Culture



2023 FUNDING IMPACT

\$2.6 million
invested in arts through
our granting programs

93 grants
awarded
to local arts non-profits
& artist-led partnerships

45% increase
in Equity Grant funds
awarded over 2022

9,460+ arts
events
& performances activated
by grant recipients

Kuba Oms performing at Cook Street
Village Block Party. Photo: Emma Rossum.

Community Engagement



100+

Summit attendees
(online & in-person)



74

appreciative inquiry &
empathy maps made



1,100+

Unique visits to
project webpage



318

Completed Surveys



Arts Champions Summit promotional artwork by Leya Tess

A vibrant scene from the Victoria Dragon Boat Festival. In the foreground, a large, colorful dragon head is being held up by performers. The dragon has a yellow and green face with large eyes, and its body is covered in red and yellow scales. A woman in a white t-shirt and orange headband is holding one of the poles supporting the dragon. In the background, other performers and spectators are visible, along with a green tent that has the 'fairway market' logo on it. The setting appears to be a waterfront area with a stone wall and a bridge in the distance.

Victoria Dragon Boat Festival
performers. Photo: Colin Smith.

The 2024–2027 Strategic Plan

NEW MISSION

To support, champion & develop the arts.

NEW VISION

The arts are key drivers of community vitality, economic sustainability, and quality of life across the region, and artists and arts organizations are thriving, resilient, and well-supported.

THE CAPITAL REGION'S AUDIENCES ARE BOUNCING BACK

"One of the highlights of our 2022/23 programming was Garden City Grooves Festival... the **highest attended festival to date**"

– Victoria BC Ska & Reggae Society



Photo: Jose Olan



photo: Jam Hamidi

"Even with the impact the Pandemic continues to have on our sector, **our audiences are expanding immensely**. A few years ago, we expected audiences in the hundreds. Now, they're in the thousands"

– Puente Theatre



Ptarmigan Arts Community art workshop- making art with natural and recycled materials. Photo: Rachel Lenkowski.

Stories of Impact

AVENTA NEW MUSIC

Showcasing local talent while bringing visiting artists & composers to the region.

CAMPBELL BAY MUSIC FESTIVAL

Community event showcasing youth, local, and indigenous musicians.

CHORAL EVOLUTION

Enhancing performances & bringing people together through music.

CINEVIC

10th annual Short Circuit Pacific Rim Film Festival - the largest yet.

HISPANIC FILM SOCIETY

13th annual Latin American & Spanish Film Week - unique in the region.

PTARMIGAN ARTS

Inspiring creativity, promoting community wellbeing, and launching arts careers.

WONDERHEADS

A year of notable growth, bringing a unique style of performance to the region and beyond.



Bassist & Vocalist Nik West jumps into the air at JazzFest 2023. Photo: Tony Kwon

Thank you!

FOR JOINT DISCUSSION:



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?

CRD ARTS & CULTURE

2023 Operating Grant Recipients

* first time recipient

ANNUAL	
Atomic Vaudeville	\$25,000
Aventa Ensemble	\$22,930
CineVic	\$23,000
Early Music Society	\$12,000
Greater Victoria Performing Arts Festival	\$8,000
Greater Victoria Youth Orchestra	\$8,000
Kaleidoscope Theatre	\$56,800
MediaNet	\$19,000
Open Space	\$87,930
Ptarmigan Arts	\$19,400
Puente Theatre	\$32,800
Runnymede Enchantment Society (Deluge)	\$38,210
SNAFU Dance Theatre	\$14,500
Story Theatre	\$40,000
Theatre Inconnu	\$27,500
Theatre SKAM	\$40,800
Victoria Arts Council	\$24,000
Victoria Baroque Players	\$9,550
*Victoria BC Ska & Reggae	\$25,000
Victoria Children's Choir	\$13,930
Victoria On Stage	\$21,500
Victoria Shakespeare Society	\$20,000
Subtotal	\$589,850

MULTIYEAR	
Art Gallery of Greater Victoria	\$448,000
Ballet Victoria	\$47,700
Belfry Theatre	\$229,000
Dance Victoria	\$68,900
Intrepid Theatre	\$112,000
Pacific Opera Victoria	\$234,450
Victoria Conservatory of Music	\$55,000
Victoria Film Festival	\$47,170
Victoria Jazz Society	\$66,800
Victoria Symphony	\$407,400
Subtotal	\$1,716,420

**Operating Grant
Total: \$2,306,270**

CRD ARTS & CULTURE

2023 Project Grant Recipients

* first time recipient

JANUARY	
Active Passive Performance	\$6,000
Afro Latin Cultural Exchange	\$8,250
Alter Arts Society	\$8,000
Blue Bridge Repertory Theatre	\$9,600
Campbell Bay Music Festival	\$6,000
Caravan World Rhythms	\$12,000
*Choral Evolution Society	\$3,000
Esquimalt Community Arts Hub	\$5,625
Fifty Fifty Arts Collective	\$6,375
Flamenco de la Isla Society	\$5,700
Garden City Electronic Music	\$12,000
Hapax Theatre	\$3,350
View Royal Hispanic Film Society of Victoria	\$4,000
Impulse Theatre Society	\$10,000
Noble Riot Dance Theatre Society	\$7,500
Suddenly Dance Theatre	\$7,500
Three on a Tree	\$2,300
Victoria Festival of Authors Society	\$12,000
Victoria Summer Music Festival	\$4,150
Wonderheads Theatre Society	\$6,650
Subtotal	\$140,000

APRIL	
BC Accordion & Tango	\$5,000
Bounce Performance Works	\$9,000
Broken Rhythms	\$5,000
Embrace Arts	\$9,250
*Galiano Literary Festival	\$8,000
India Canada Cultural Assn	\$8,000
Integrate Art Society	\$8,000
Ministry of Casual Living	\$12,000
Sing Your Joy	\$3,500
Sooke Arts Council	\$5,000
Sooke Community Choir	\$2,075
*The Other Guise Theatre	\$10,000
Veselka Ukrainian Dance	\$2,000
Victoria Choral Society	\$6,000
Victoria Philharmonic Choir	\$8,000
Victoria Poetry Project	\$7,500
*Westshore Community Concert Band	\$2,075
William Head on Stage	\$12,000
Xchanges	\$10,000
Yellowhouse Arts	\$10,000
Subtotal	\$142,400

**Project Grant
Total: \$282,400**

CRD ARTS & CULTURE

2023 Equity, Incubator & IDEA Grants Recipients

* first time recipient

EQUITY	
Bayanihan Cultural & Housing Society	\$5,000
*BC Black History Awareness Society	\$8,000
Integrate Art Society Kara Stanton	\$8,000
Monoceros Education Society	\$8,000
Open Space Farheen Haq	\$5,000
Ptarmigan Arts Society John Aitken	\$5,000
*Victoria Dragon Boat Festival	\$8,000
Victoria Native Friendship Centre	\$8,000
Subtotal	\$55,000

INCUBATOR	
*Haus of Owl	\$5,000
*Vancouver Island Visual Arts Society	\$5,000
Subtotal	\$10,000

IDEA	
Amber Academy Youth Fine Arts	\$3,000
*Canadian International Tea Appreciation Society	\$3,000
*Cook St. Village Association	\$3,000
Friends of Bowker Creek Society	\$1,000
*Galiano Conservancy Association	\$3,000
Harmony Project Sooke	\$3,000
*James Bay Community School	\$3,000
Jewish Community Centre of Victoria	\$3,000
Southern Gulf Island Community Resource Centre	\$3,000
*Victoria Downtown Residents Association	\$3,000
*Wiser Developments Society	\$3,000
Subtotal	\$31,000

**Equity, Incubator & Idea
Grants Total: \$96,000**

**2023 CRD Arts & Culture Grant Total:
\$2,684,670**

IMPULSE THEATRE

Marco 19, 2024

Attn: CRD Arts Commision

To members of the CRD Arts Commision;

We are writing to express our heartfelt gratitude for our recent appointment to the Operating Grant program. We are deeply grateful for the recognition, financial support, and investment that this new level of funding provides.

The support we have received since 2018 through the Support Service has been integral to our growth as an organization, community builder, and artmaker in the region. We have steadily increased our capacity over the past six years in part due to the initial, and then continued, investments from the project grant program. Acquiring Operating funding marks a new stage for the organization, catalyzed by this vital support from the Arts Commission. This belief in our activities and accomplishments will allow us to access new levels of funding and demonstrate to new stakeholders that we are an integral part of the fabric that makes up the Capital Regional District's performing arts community.

Thank you again for your invaluable contribution to Impulse Theatre. We look forward to updating you on our progress and sharing the impact of your support with you. We wouldn't be able to provide emerging and established arts workers the opportunities we have without your contributions.

Sincerely,



Jackie Adamthwaite, President



Andrew Barrett, Artistic Producer

received March 28/24



Newcombe Singers
Association
P.O. Box 23015,
RPO Cook Street,
Victoria, BC V8V 4Z8

April 25, 2024

CRD Arts Commission

CRD Arts and Culture Support Service

625 Fisgard Street

Victoria, BC V8W 1R7

Dear Commissioners;

On behalf of the Newcombe Singers Association, I would like to express our sincere thanks for your generous grant of \$2,250 to support our choir's upcoming "Sakura: Songs from the Tree of Life" concert in May, 2024.

Our concert highlights major themes associated with cherry blossoms in Japanese culture, and celebrates the gift of so many beautiful cherry trees to the city of Victoria in the 1930's.

We are delighted to be performing "Hotaru Koi", a new arrangement of "Sakura" by Kathryn Whitney, "Autumn" by Cait Nishimura, and "Furusato: arrangements of five traditional Japanese melodies", along with other pieces that herald the coming of spring and the flowering of cherry trees and love the world over.

It will be especially exciting to be presenting the world premiere of the SATB version of "How the Blossoms are Falling", text by Joy Kogawa with music by Ramona Luengen. The theme is forgiveness after the Japanese internments.

We feel fortunate to have the children's choir from the Japanese Heritage Language School, cello soloist Vannophat Kaploykeo, and the Furusato Dancers in their elegant traditional dress join us for this amazing concert.

Warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marilyn Crump".

Marilyn Crump

Grant Committee

For the Newcombe Singers Board of Directors 2023-24

received April 29/24