



Capital Regional District

625 Fisgard St.
Victoria, BC V8W 1R7

Meeting Minutes

Arts Commission

Wednesday, October 23, 2024

4:00 PM

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

PRESENT

Members: M. Alto (Chair), P. Brent (EP), D. Cavens (EP), S. Epp (EP), G. Lemon (EP), C. Plant (EP), K. Roessingh (EP), C. Smart

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

AAC: J. Verano, Chair (EP)

EP – Electronic Participation

Regrets: Jeff Bateman

The meeting was called to order at 4:01 pm.

1. Territorial Acknowledgement

Chair Alto provided a Territorial Acknowledgement and invited the rest of the members online to reflect on the lands that they are on, and the opportunities we enjoy thanks to the stewardship of Indigenous communities.

2. Approval of Agenda

**MOVED by Member Cavens, SECONDED by Member Roessingh,
That the agenda for the October 23, 2024, Arts Commission meeting be
approved. CARRIED**

3. Adoption of Minutes

**MOVED by Member Cavens, SECONDED by Member Brent,
That the minutes of the Arts Commission meeting of September 25, 2024, be
adopted as circulated. CARRIED**

4. Chair's Remarks

Chair Alto was delighted to participate in selecting the upcoming Arts Advisory Council appointments. She noted that the Performing Arts Facilities Select Committee (PAFSC) is meeting next month and will receive a staff report with options for facilities in the region, which is

relevant to the work of this Commission. Chair Alto will ask staff to send a note to the Commission when the PAFSC meeting date is confirmed in case you want to tune in to the meeting, or to check the minutes afterward.

5. Presentations/Delegations – none.

6. Commission Business

6.1 Arts Advisory Council (AAC) Chair's Report (verbal)

J. Verano reported that the AAC met in early October and fully endorsed the proposed Grow Forward granting program. She met with Chair Alto and C. Gilpin to decide on new appointments. Members of the AAC are currently working through two large binders of applications in preparation for the Operating Grant adjudication on November 30th.

6.1.2 Arts Advisory Council Minutes: October 8, 2024, Meeting – received for information.

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

6.2 Manager's Report (verbal)

C. Gilpin noted that this is the multiyear intake for Operating Grants, so we have our 10 largest clients participating, meaning that the AAC are reviewing 34 and not just 24 applications. The upgrade to the CRD website update is underway. Kudos to A. Gibbs for her hard work, streamlining our pages and making them more accessible. Out in the arts sector: the BC Arts Council and the Canada Council for the Arts have both given notice that operating funding will be frozen in 2024 and 2025 with no new applicants accepted into those programs. That is difficult for a number of our emerging organizations. Also, there was a sad announcement that the Victoria Event Centre will no longer be operated by the Victoria Multicultural Society. We did not support them directly, but many of our clients rented that space with our grants. Please note that the Commission received a piece of correspondence requesting a letter of support, which staff recommends we send.

6.2.1 Outreach Report (attached)

6.3 Update on Presentation to View Royal Council on October 1, 2024

C. Gilpin and Chair Alto made a presentation on the benefits of being a tier 1 participant in the service. There was a constructive discussion, taking a holistic approach to arts and culture support.

At the last Arts Commission meeting there was an action given to staff, to gather information about what the process would be if a participant wanted to change tiers. C. Gilpin checked with Legal and Legislative Services and provided additional information on the process.

At end of the View Royal presentation – the council passed this amended motion:

THAT, in conjunction with budget discussions, Council review View Royal's group level participation in the Capital Regional District (CRD) Arts, with consideration to also fund a Westshore Arts Centre;

AND THAT the Town work with the CRD Arts to request all Westshore municipalities review their CRD contributions toward a truly regionally funded arts program and infrastructure.

In response to a question, C. Gilpin stated that Langford is planning to release their Arts and Culture master plan in the first quarter of 2025, which will include a report by their staff on Langford's potential participation in the Arts Service.

6.4 Grow Forward Capacity-Building Program

At the last Arts Commission meeting, this new granting program had been presented, and staff had been asked to take it back to the Arts Advisory Council. The AAC had a robust discussion and fully endorsed the program. C. Gilpin explained that this program was a key part of the strategic plan, responding to a need for more funding support for mentorship, planning, and capacity building. Finances have already approved for pilot year 2025. Staff would seek external funding partners/opportunities for an expanded program in 2026.

MOVED by Member Cavens, SECONDED by Member Smart,

- 1. That the Incubator grant program is replaced with a new expanded capacity-building program called *Grow Forward* to be launched as a pilot program in spring 2025.**
- 2. That, starting in 2025, the Projects, Short Series and Extended Programming grant program allow applications from arts non-profit organizations that are incorporated at any time before the grant deadline.**
- 3. That staff actively recruit external funding partners for the full version of *Grow Forward*, which has a tentative launch date of spring 2026.**
- 4. That staff bring a program evaluation of the *Grow Forward* pilot program back to the Arts Commission in fall 2025 along with more details on the launch of a full version of the program informed by the review of the pilot version.**

CARRIED

Members expressed their appreciation for the work of the staff.

6.5 Options for Additional Information in Staff Reports with Grant Funding Recommendations

At the May meeting of the Arts Commission, a motion was passed that staff report back with options for additional feedback to be provided on grant applications. C. Gilpin outlined the areas where more details could be provided, if applicable and relevant.

Member Lemon left the meeting.

MOVED by Member Plant, SECONDED by Member Roessingh,

That staff provide additional information in staff reports regarding grant funding recommendations as presented.

CARRIED

7. New Business: Selection of Commission member to chair the November Commission meeting

Chair Alto asked for a volunteer to chair the meeting if it happens while she is out of the country. C. Smart agreed to do so.

**MOVED by Member Plant, SECONDED by Member Cavens,
That Carrie Smart be appointed to chair the November 27th Arts Commission meeting, should the
need for that meeting arise. CARRIED**

Member Smart recused herself from the room to avoid perception of conflict of interest.

8. Correspondence: Letter from Victoria Symphony, requesting a letter of support

**MOVED by Member Plant, SECONDED by Member Cavens,
That the Arts Commission write a letter of support for the Victoria Symphony
to accompany their application to the BC Arts Council's Arts Infrastructure
Fund. CARRIED**

Staff will work with Chair Alto to create the letter.

9. Motion to Close the Meeting

MOVED by Member Roessingh, SECONDED by Member Cavens,
**1. That the meeting be closed in accordance with the Community Charter,
Part 4, Division 3, 90(1)(a) personal information about an identifiable
individual who holds or is being considered for a position as an officer,
employee or agent of the regional district or another position appointed
by the regional district; and**
**2. That Joanna Verano, Chair, Arts Advisory Council, be allowed into the
closed portion of the meeting. CARRIED**

The Commission moved to the closed session at 4:54 pm.

The Commission rose from the closed session at 5:08 pm with the following report:

That Jedidjah Noomen, Angelica Reid, and Paballo Tsolo each be appointed to the Arts Advisory Council for a term of one year ending on December 31, 2025, and

That Mandart Chan, Eli Mushumanski, and Jill Smillie each be reappointed to the Arts Advisory Council for a term of three years ending on December 31, 2027, and that Rachel Ditor and Christina Haska each be reappointed to the Arts Advisory Council for a term of two years ending on December 31, 2026.

10. Adjournment

**MOVED by Member Smart, SECONDED by Member Cavens,
That the October 23, 2024, Arts Commission meeting be adjourned at 5:09 pm.
CARRIED**

Chair

Recorder