

Meeting Minutes

Arts Commission

Wednesday, January 22, 2025

4:00 PM

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

PRESENT

Members: J. Bateman (EP), A. Boardman (EP), P. Brent, S. Epp (EP), G. Lemon (EP), C. Plant (EP),
K. Roessingh (EP), C. Smart (Acting Chair)

AAC Members: S. Reid (Chair), S. Donaldson (Funding Chair), R. Ditor (EP), C. Haska, J. Smillie (EP),
J. Verano

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

EP – Electronic Participation

Regrets: M. Alto (Chair)

The meeting was called to order at 4:01 by Chris Gilpin because Chair Alto could not be present.

**MOVED by Member Brent, SECONDED by Member Roessingh,
That Carrie Smart be appointed acting chair. CARRIED**

1. Territorial Acknowledgement

Acting Chair Smart provided a Territorial Acknowledgement, underlining the importance of continuing to tell our truths and work toward reconciliation. She gave a special welcome to new members Jeff Bateman and Andrea Boardman and invited attendees to introduce themselves.

2. Approval of Agenda

**MOVED by Member Brent, SECONDED by Member Bateman,
That the agenda for the January 22, 2025 Arts Commission meeting be
approved. CARRIED**

3. Adoption of Minutes

**MOVED by Member Brent, SECONDED by Member Roessingh,
That the minutes of the Arts Commission meeting of October 23, 2024 be
adopted as circulated. CARRIED**

4. Chair's Remarks

Acting Chair Smart welcomed everyone back after the holiday break she enjoyed going to the Royal Theatre for the *Home for Christmas* concert, among so many other offerings. She acknowledged that many councils are heading into budget season with difficult decisions to be made.

5. Presentations/Delegations - none**6. Commission Business****6.1 Arts Advisory Council (AAC) Chair's Report (verbal)**

S. Reid is the new chair (was vice chair last year). AAC has elected R. Gale as vice chair, and re-elected S. Donaldson as funding chair. Thank you to Chair Alto for inviting the AAC to the meeting. Last fall the AAC dedicated hundreds of hours to adjudicating the Annual and Multiyear Operating Grants. Our goal is always to enhance the arts ecosystem and strengthen arts organizations.

6.1.2 Arts Advisory Council Minutes: January 14, 2025 Meeting – received for information**6.1.3 Arts Advisory Council Activities by Council Summary: January 14, 2025 - received for information****6.2 Manager's Report (verbal)**

C. Gilpin welcomed everyone and noted that an orientation was held for new members a few weeks ago. The January Project Grant intake is now closed, having received 34 applications. Our media release about the new Grow Forward Grant resulted in two articles in the press. Highlights of outreach report: the CRD is doing a big website redesign, and A. Gibbs has been working hard on this, along with early planning for the Arts Champion Summit at the Baumann Centre tentatively scheduled for a day in November 2025. The Performing Arts Facilities Select Committee has hired a consultant to analyze five new options to scale up support for regional arts facilities.

6.2.1 Outreach Report (attached)**6.3 2025 Operating Grant Recommendations**

There were 24 annual and 10 multiyear Operating Grant applications to assess, and each organization's application was scored in 3 categories. Eight were assessed as exceptional in performance and 17 were satisfactory. Three had been given a Notice of Significant Concern (NOSC) last year, and all three continued to generate concern. Another five organizations were given a new NOSC. The arts ecosystem is dynamic, and the AAC has responded to this.

S. Donaldson, Funding Chair, shared how impressed she was with how some high performing annual organizations ranked alongside their "larger cousins" the multiyear applicants.

K. Roessingh declared a conflict of interest when it came to the following organizations: the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria, Dance Victoria, Victoria Arts Council, and the Victoria Jazz Society.

There were questions from some members and clarifications from the Funding Chair and staff:

- Operating Grants are meant for organizations who are primarily concerned with public arts programming.
- Every member of the AAC that participated in the Operating Grant adjudication read every application and scored it with the exception of a small number of perceived conflict of interest situations. Those given Notices of Significant Concern (NOSCs) last year sent extra letters, and those were read by the entire team.
- No Operating client can have a funding reduction in first year of a NOSC, only after they have been given a chance to respond in the following year.
- Synthesized information about the scoring is given in public reports. Many more details are available for organizations who follow up with staff.

C. Gilpin noted that there is a review of the Operating Grant program coming up this year.

**MOVED by Member Lemon, SECONDED by Member Brent,
That the 2025 Operating Grant Recommendations be approved as presented,
with the exception of: the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria, Dance Victoria, the
Greater Victoria Performing Arts Festival, Victoria Arts Council, and the
Victoria Jazz Society.** **CARRIED**

**MOVED by Acting Chair Smart, SECONDED by Member Plant,
That Member Brent act as the chair in the absence of Chair Smart.** **CARRIED**

Members Smart and Roessingh recused themselves from the meeting at 4:52 due to potential conflicts of interest.

Member Brent took the chair.

**MOVED by Member Plant, SECONDED by Member Bateman,
That the 2025 Operating Grant Recommendations for the Art Gallery of
Greater Victoria, Dance Victoria, the Greater Victoria Performing Arts Festival,
Victoria Arts Council, and the Victoria Jazz Society be approved as presented.** **CARRIED**

Members Smart and Roessingh returned to the meeting at 4:56 pm.

Member Smart resumed the chair.

6.4 Arts & Culture Support Service Strategic Plan Check-in

C. Gilpin explained that last year was year one of the strategic plan, and this check-in is part of our implementation update. The report is for information, but discussion is welcomed.

Discussion ensued. Acting Chair Smart expressed appreciation for the concise information and quality visuals – it was very digestible and easy to understand.

6.5 2025 Arts Commission Meeting Schedule

This schedule includes a note that September's meeting will be moved to the third Wednesday of the month (17th) as there is a conflict with the Union of BC Municipalities convention on the regular meeting week.

7. New Business - none

- 8. Correspondence** – November 15/24 response re: BC Arts Council's regional areas policy
Chair Alto sent an advocacy letter on behalf of the Arts Commission in June to raise the issues around less funding being available to organizations in our region. This was directed to the Minister of Tourism, Arts, Culture, and Sport. The response was delayed until the election, so we received a response from the assistant deputy minister.

9. Adjournment

**MOVED by Member Bateman, SECONDED by Member Brent
That the January 22, 2025 Arts Commission meeting be adjourned at 5:16 pm.
CARRIED**

Chair

Recorder