

## ARTS COMMISSION

Notice of Meeting on **Wednesday, March 26, 2025, at 4:00 p.m.**  
6th Floor Boardroom, 625 Fisgard Street, Victoria, BC; and Electronic Participation

M. Alto (Chair)	A. Boardman	S. Epp	C. Plant	C. Smart
J. Bateman	P. Brent	G. Lemon	K. Roessingh	

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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](http://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

**Recommendation:** That the agenda for the March 26, 2025 Arts Commission meeting be approved.

3. Adoption of Minutes of January 22, 2025

**Recommendation:** That the minutes of the Arts Commission meeting of January 22, 2025, be adopted.

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: March 11, 2025 - for information
- 6.1.3. Arts Advisory Council *Activities by Council Summary*: March 11, 2025 – for information

6.2. Manager's Report (verbal)

- 6.2.1 Outreach Report (written)

6.3 January 2025 Project Grant Recommendations

**Recommendation:** The Arts Advisory Council recommends to the Arts Commission:  
That the January 2025 Project Grant recommendations be approved as presented.

**Attachments:** Staff Report: January 2025 Project Grant Recommendations  
Appendix A: January 2025 Project Grant Recommendations and Summaries

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

6.4 Inappropriate Behaviour Disclaimer Language

**Recommendation:** that the Inappropriate Behaviour disclaimer language be added to grant program guidelines upon launching each intake, included in all future grant notification letters, and any relevant sections of the CRD website.

**Attachments:** Staff Report: Inappropriate Behaviour Disclaimer Language  
Appendix A: Inappropriate Behaviour Disclaimer Language for CRD Arts & Culture

7. New Business

8. Correspondence
- |                         |                                     |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Pacific Opera Victoria: | Thank You Letter, January 24, 2025  |
| Intrepid Theatre:       | Thank You Letter, February 3, 2025  |
| Dance Victoria:         | Thank You Letter, February 18, 2025 |
| Victory Symphony:       | Thank You Letter, February 21, 2025 |
| Impulse Theatre:        | Thank You Letter, February 28, 2025 |

9. Adjournment

Next Meeting: April 23, 2025



## 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 (17<sup>th</sup>) 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**

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Chair

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Recorder



## Meeting Minutes Arts Advisory Council

Tuesday, March 11, 2025

5:00 PM

Via Video Conference

### PRESENT

Members: R. Ditor, S. Donaldson, R. Gale, C. Haska, E. Mushumanski, J. Noomen, A. Reid,  
S. Reid (Chair), J. Smillie, P. Tsolo,

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

Regrets: M. Chan, J. Verano

The meeting was called to order at 5:01 by Chair Reid.

### 1. Territorial Acknowledgement

Chair Reid offered a territorial acknowledgement, giving thanks to those peoples and nations who have stewarded this land.

### 2. Approval of Agenda

**MOVED by C. Haska, SECONDED by R. Gale,**

**That the agenda for the March 11, 2025 Arts Advisory Council meeting be approved.**

**CARRIED**

### 3. Minutes

#### 3.1 Arts Advisory Council Minutes of January 14, 2025

**MOVED by S. Donaldson, SECONDED by P. Tsolo,**

**That the January 14, 2025 minutes of the Arts Advisory Council be approved as presented.**

**CARRIED**

#### 3.2 Arts Commission Minutes of October 23, 2024

- Received for information

### 4. Chair's Report

Chair Reid expressed that she had enjoyed attending the January Arts Commission meeting in January and was looking forward to discussing the January Project Grant adjudication.

### 5. Manager's Report

C. Gilpin shared that this is one of the busiest weeks of the year with three granting intakes getting close to their application deadline. Letters went out to Operating clients after the January Arts Commission meeting, and he has been giving feedback to organizations who were given a Notice of Significant Concern (NOSC) or were dropped from the granting program. BC Budget 2025 looks

status quo but there is no sign of money for the BC Fairs, Festivals and Events Fund. The BC Arts Council budget also looks status quo. There is a Pro Art Alliance meeting on March 19<sup>th</sup> at which C. Gilpin has been invited to make a presentation.

#### **6. 2025 January Project Grant Recommendations**

S. Donaldson spoke to the process; the team (with E. Mushumanski and J. Smillie) was well-aligned and there was good substantive discussion. There were 34 applicants and requests were large (19 requests of \$10,000 or more). The top four scoring organizations: Active Passive, Societe Francophone, Garden City Electronic Music, and Victoria Festival of Authors received 100% of their ask. Another 13 organizations received 60 – 80% of their ask. Unsuccessful organizations are eligible to apply to the April intake.

**MOVED by S. Donaldson, SECONDED by C. Haska,  
The Arts Advisory Council recommends to the Arts Commission:  
That the 2025 January Project Grant recommendations be approved as presented. CARRIED**

#### **7. Operating Grants Review**

C. Gilpin reminded members that it is part of our strategic plan to do a review of Operating Grants. Beginning with this discussion, we will decide on a group of modifications to put forward to the June meeting of the Arts Commission meeting, to be implemented for the next Operating Grant intake that launches in July. Ninety percent of the proposed changes are based on a 2023 consultation with the arts community. C. Gilpin led members through the discussion paper, inviting comments on each part of the recommended modifications: to eligibility, application processes, and assessment. Comments were collected for staff to take away and develop a staff report for a future meeting.

#### **8. Request from Early Music Society of the Islands and Victoria Baroque Music Society**

Members discussed the proposal, and the benefits of the proposed merger.

**MOVED by S. Donaldson, SECONDED by R. Gale,  
That staff draft a Memorandum of Understanding to EMSI and VBMS, to be signed by the AAC Chair, that the AAC would support the request that the starting level of operating grant support would be the combined amounts of the two organizations. CARRIED**

#### **9. ABCs (Activity by Council Summary) – received for information.**

Those who have not yet contributed their activities can forward them to Erin for inclusion in the Arts Commission agenda package this month.

#### **10. Correspondence**

Thank-you letters were received from Dance Victoria and Intrepid Theatre. Members expressed gratitude for the opportunity to read about the impact of the granting programs.



**11. Adjournment**

The March 11, 2025 Arts Advisory Council meeting was adjourned at 6:02 pm.

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Chair

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Recorder

## **Arts Advisory Council Meeting: Tuesday, March 11, 2025**

### **Activities by Council (ABCs):**

#### **Local:**

Art Gallery of Greater Victoria:

Beauty of Mending, Kintsugi & Beyond; From Warhol to Banksy; Cabin Series by Dave Skilling

Bayanihan Creative Collective: Maria Cacao

Belfry Theatre: Behind the Moon

Crosstown by Anand Rajaram (part of Spark Festival)

Canadian College of Performing Arts: Ride the Cyclone

Candlelight Concerts: Best of Joe Hisaishi

Gage Gallery: This is Us

IGN: 25th Annual North American Tour of International Guitar Night

Intrepid Theatre presents: Ivan Coyote's Playlist at the Metro Studio Theatre

Hermann's Jazz Club: The Music of John Prine + more by the Clay Pigeons

Lucky Bar: The Ten Dollar Rap Show by the Sweat Pant Superstars

Dance Victoria: Ballet de Trocadero

Shamel Pitts' TRIBE: Black Hole – Trilogy and Triathlon

Mayne Island Community Library: "Walking forward with the past" exhibition of Coast Salish art

Old Man Luedecke – live at Mayne Island Ag Hall

Pacific Opera: The Little Prince

St. Michael's University School: The Prom

Senior School Large Ensembles Concert

Theatre Inconnu: Queen Maeve

UVic Café Historique: The Exile of Japanese Canadians

UVic Phoenix Theatre: The Killing Game

Vic Theatre: Pecha Kucha Night Victoria Vol 21

Victoria Baroque: Gloria

Victoria Film Fest:

Adult Best Friends

Bring Them Down

Meet the Barbarians

Short bursts: now for something completely different

Sweet Summer Pow Wow

Young Hearts

Ari's Theme

Grand Tour

My Dead Friend Zoe

The Chef and the Daruma

Bob Trevino Likes It

Les Filles Du Rois

Universal Language

Victoria Symphony: Dvořák's New World Symphony

**Out of town:**

Calgary: Studio Bell (Home of National Music Centre) – feature exhibition on k.d. lang and Gilles Godard + permanent exhibitions

New York: Void Main at cirqueSaw

Copenhagen: Royal Danish Opera – Maria Stuarda



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## **OUTREACH REPORT TO THE ARTS COMMISSION MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26, 2025**

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The following is a short summary of the outreach initiatives undertaken since the last Arts Commission meeting on January 22<sup>nd</sup>:

### **RAISE AWARENESS ABOUT THE VALUE OF THE ARTS**

#### **Send Quarterly E-Newsletters**

- Spring Grant Launch
  - Featured: 2025 Spring Grants; Grow Forward Grant highlight; Information sessions
  - Sent to 829 subscribers; 61% open rate; 11% click rate
- RMTS Board Call
  - Featured: RMTS Board appointment opportunity
  - Sent to 795 subscribers; 58% open rate; 3% click rate
- Continued preparation for migration to new e-newsletter platform, Constant Contact (CRD-wide initiative)

#### **Implement Impact Story Series**

- Conducting interviews to expand Impact Story series for Impact Report and social media

#### **Collaborate with arts organizations on data sharing**

- Attended first National Research Group meeting of 2025
  - Network of Canadian arts funders interested in research, reporting, and evaluation to inform policymaking and program design
  - Discussed developing and enhancing strategic approaches to funder reporting
- Continued advancing the regional impact data-sharing initiative
  - Collected data submissions from six major regional arts organizations
  - Presented data submissions to IT team for analysis
- Met with capital region Municipal Arts & Culture Staff Roundtable Group to discuss shared interests and potential areas for collaboration

### **PLAN AND HOST A BIENNIAL ARTS CHAMPIONS SUMMIT**

#### **Plan summit logistics, content and speakers**

- Date and venue confirmed: November 4, 2025, at the Baumann Centre's Wingate Studio; more details to follow
- Signed booking agreement and estimated costs acquired

### **CONTINUE EDI WORK TO ENSURE COMMUNICATIONS ARE ACCESSIBLE**

#### **Liaise with Accessibility/EDI Committee and specialists**

- Met with CRD Equity, Diversity, Inclusion & Accessibility Specialist to discuss collaboration opportunities

## **EXPANDED PROMOTION OF GRANT INTAKES AND FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES**

### **Host information sessions**

- Promoted in e-newsletter, and on social media, published in CRD events calendar
- Hosted two information sessions; Presented slides via Zoom detailing eligibility, guidelines, budget tutorial, and application advice and 20-minute Q&A period
  - Equity IDEA & Grow Forward Grants information session
    - 52 registrants, 33 participants (record high amounts)
  - April Project Grant information session
    - 20 registrants at time of writing
- Follow up email with slides in PDF format and relevant links sent to registrants

### **Develop/update funding opportunity resources**

- Updated grant writing help resources on CRD Arts Funding webpage including the Grant Finder matrix, list of other funding sources, and FAQs

### **Website redesign**

- Website is now fully launched, Arts & Culture pages up to date and functional
- Improvements to LandMarks Public Art database still ongoing

### **Spring Grant (Equity, IDEA, Grow Forward & April Project Grants) Intake Completed**

- Deadline and guideline updates published on Arts Funding webpage
- Social media posts/stories shared on X, Threads, Facebook & Instagram; featured in e-newsletter
- Digital ads reached 4,250+ users
- Expanded Grow Forward Grant Launch campaign included
  - Media release which generated two news articles
  - Additional social media and e-newsletter coverage

## **PRODUCE ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT**

### **Analyze information and determine theme**

- Theme selected; final reports continue to be reviewed as they are submitted

### **Develop report**

- Expected completion of draft for internal review by end of March; on schedule for review at May Arts Commission meeting



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## REPORT TO ARTS ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING OF TUESDAY, MARCH 11, 2025

**SUBJECT**     January 2025 Project Grants Recommendations

### **ISSUE SUMMARY**

The adjudication committee for the January 2025 Project Grants program has completed its work and made 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 Programs<sup>1</sup>.” 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 Projects, Series & Extended Programming Grants (commonly known as “Project Grants”) provide support for organizations to produce or present one-time projects, a short series of events, or extended programming taking place over 12 months or less.

At the January 2025 deadline of Project Grants, 34 applications were received, higher than the 4-year average (see Table 1). No applications were ruled ineligible by staff. The total request from eligible applications of \$316,020 was significantly higher than the 4-year average. 17 grants were awarded with a higher-than-average award amount and four applications are funded at the full amount of their request. The applicant success rate of 50% was lower than average, in part due to the high number of applications.

**Table 1. Project Grants: Recent Funding History**

Year	Intake	# Eligible Applications	# Awards	Success Rate	Total Request	Total Awarded	Median Request	Median Award
2021	Jan	17	14	82%	\$154,700	\$120,000	\$10,000	\$7,725
2021	Apr	21	17	81%	\$199,210	\$120,000	\$8,200	\$7,000
2022	Jan	27	18	67%	\$259,732	\$120,000	\$10,000	\$6,600
2022	Apr	36	22	61%	\$285,212	\$120,000	\$7,807	\$5,000
2023	Jan	28	20	71%	\$231,335	\$140,000	\$8,150	\$6,513
2023	Apr	21	20	95%	\$196,552	\$142,400	\$9,300	\$8,000
2024	Jan	35	23	65%	\$317,211	\$140,000	\$9,000	\$6,000
2024	Apr	20	16	80%	\$203,838	\$140,000	\$10,000	\$9,450
2025	Jan	34	17	50%	\$316,020	\$140,000	\$10,000	\$7,000

An adjudication committee of three Council members met in March 2025 to consider 34 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.

<sup>1</sup> The Arts and Culture Support Service was originally known as the Arts Development Service.

The adjudicators assessed and scored each of the applications using a matrix that reflects the desired outcomes of the program in the areas of:

- payment of artists
- the benefit to the art form and to the arts in the region
- knowledge of the target audience
- accessibility (physical, financial, cultural, and other)
- benefits to the community, including to equity-seeking groups and underrepresented arts and cultural practices
- reasonableness of the budget and of 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. The adjudication committee also considered factors related to regional distribution of arts funding and organizational niche in the arts ecosystem.

Seventeen applications are recommended for funding and seventeen also are not recommended for funding at this time (see Appendix A for more details). Unsuccessful applications will have the option to reapply at the April deadline intake of Projects Grants.

### **ALTERNATIVES**

#### *Alternative 1*

The Arts Advisory Council recommends to the Arts Commission:  
That the January 2025 Project Grants recommendations be approved as presented.

#### *Alternative 2*

That this report be referred to staff for additional information.

### **IMPLICATIONS**

#### *Financial Implications*

Ratification and approval of these recommendations will allocate \$140,000 to the 2025 Project Grants program, which is equal to the amount in the preliminary 2025 budget for this intake (see Table 2).

Organizations that have applied to Operating Grants have been notified about their funding amount as approved by the Arts Commission at its meeting in January 2025. Operating Grant recipients that requested advances on their grant will be paid in April. The majority of Operating Grants will be paid immediately following August 1, when the CRD receives its annual allocation of tax revenue.

**Table 2. Update on Arts Granting Budget for the CRD Arts and Culture Support Service**

<b>Granting Program</b>	<b>2025 Budget</b>	<b>2025 Allocated</b>	<b>2025 Paid Out</b>
Operating Grants	\$2,421,070	\$2,421,070	\$0
Project Grants	\$280,000	\$140,000	\$0
Equity Grants	\$50,000	\$0	\$0
Grow Forward Grants	\$30,000	\$0	\$0
IDEA Grants	\$33,000	\$0	\$0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,814,070</b>	<b>\$2,561,070</b>	<b>\$0</b>

January Project Grants will be paid out in early April 2025. The remainder of the Project Grants budget and the Equity, IDEA and Grow Forward Grants will be allocated at the upcoming intakes for these programs.

**CONCLUSION**

The adjudication committee has assessed 34 applications received at the January 2025 Project Grants deadline. The 17 projects recommended for a grant will fulfil the Arts & Culture Support Service’s purpose to provide benefits to the community through its funding programs and will support a range of organizations to produce arts programming for audiences in the capital region.

**RECOMMENDATION**

The Arts Advisory Council recommends to the Arts Commission:  
That the January 2025 Project Grants recommendations be approved as presented.

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

Appendix A: January 2025 Project Grants Recommendations and Summaries



## January 2025 Project Grants

Organization	Jurisdiction	Eligible Request	2025 Recom'd
Active Passive Performance	SGI	12,738	12,700
Afro Latin Cultural Exchange	Victoria	12,000	7,000
Alter Arts	Victoria	12,000	0
arc.hive arts	Victoria	9,750	0
Artistree Festival (new)	Victoria	10,000	0
Between Words Theatre (new)	Victoria	5,000	0
Blue Bridge Theatre	Victoria	10,000	7,000
Campbell Bay Music Festival	SGI	10,000	8,000
Choral Evolution	Sooke	5,000	0
Eine Kleine Summer Music	View Royal	3,965	0
Embrace Arts	Victoria	10,000	7,000
Fifty Fifty Arts Collective	Victoria	8,557	0
Flamenco de la Isla	Victoria	10,000	7,000
Garden City Electronic Music	Victoria	15,000	15,000
Greater Victoria Festival	Victoria	19,250	0
Greater Victoria Folk Festival	Saanich	5,000	0
Hispanic Film Society of Victoria	View Royal	4,500	3,600
Island String Players	Saanich	8,000	0
Newcombe Singers	Oak Bay	5,250	4,000
Noble Riot Dance Theatre	Victoria	12,000	9,600
Other Guise Theatre Company	Victoria	10,000	0
Pulcherie Mboussi Foundation	Victoria	10,000	0
Sinnergy Productions (new)	Victoria	5,000	0
Societe Francophone de Victoria	Victoria	15,000	15,000
Southern Gulf Islands Arts Council	SGI	6,760	0
Spec Theatre (new)	Victoria	8,750	0
Suddenly Dance	Victoria	10,000	0
Township Community Arts Council	Esquimalt	10,000	0
V.I. Caribbean Hub (I-Land Fest)	Victoria	10,000	8,000
Victoria Festival of Authors	Victoria	12,000	12,000
Victoria Guitar Society	Victoria	6,300	5,300
Victoria Summer Music Festival	Victoria	4,000	3,200
Vox Humana Choir	Victoria	7,500	6,000
Yellowhouse Art Centre	SGI	12,000	9,600
<b>Total:</b>		<b>315,320</b>	<b>140,000</b>

## 2025 January Project Grants – Recommendation Summary

Categories: OT = one-time project; SS = short series of events; EXT = extended programming

	Jurisdiction	Project Category	2025 Request	2025 Recommendation
<b>ACTIVE PASSIVE PERFORMANCE SOCIETY</b>	SGI	EXT	12,738	12,700

**Funding History:** 2021 IDEA: \$3000; 2022 JanPG: \$0; 2022 AprPG: \$7950; 2023 JanPG: \$6000; 2024 JanPG: \$12250

### Mandate

Active / Passive Performance Society (A/PPS)'s mandate is to:

- (1) Bring creative, experimental, singular and exceptional music to the Southern Gulf Islands via performances, installations, broadcasts, workshops, residencies and more;
- (2) Build an audience and community for new and exciting creative endeavours, including music, media and technology; and
- (3) Amplify and support diverse artist voices from throughout the Pacific Northwest.

### Project Summary

*2025-2026 Season*

A/PPS's season includes:

- (1) Fates II: second in our concert series exploring the negative stereotypes of women who take up space. Includes a week-long artist residency.
- (2) Active / Passive Vol. 7: the seventh installment of our annual 3-day music festival with youth showcase.
- (3) Slumber II: our second overnight ambient music concert.
- (4) BioSonic! 2026: musicians, video artists, and youth use expressive arts as a lens to explore biodiversity, environmental sustainability and stewardship.

### Comments on 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 four of all applications received at this granting intake. The recommendation is for the full amount of the grant request (rounded down).

## 2025 January Project Grants – Recommendation Summary

Categories: OT = one-time project; SS = short series of events; EXT = extended programming

	Jurisdiction	Project Category	2025 Request	2025 Recommendation
<b>AFRO LATIN CULTURAL EXCHANGE</b>	Victoria	OT	12,000	7,000

**Funding History:** 2020 JanPG: \$0; 2020 AprPG: \$5500; 2022 JanPG: \$5500; 2023 JanPG: \$8250; 2024 JanPG: \$8400

### Mandate

Afro Latin Cultural Exchange (ALCE) is a non-profit organization that is dedicated to building connection and promoting equal participation between Afro-Latin and Canadian Cultures and Arts through Dance, Music and Artistic Activities.

### Project Summary

*Victoria International Kizomba Festival, 6<sup>th</sup> Edition*

Held April 17 – 21, 2025, this includes:

- Welcome gathering at the Ukrainian Cultural Centre, including a Kizomba seminar, social dancing, and artist mingling.
- Outdoor programming at Centennial Square: live performances, exhibitions, introductory dance lessons, DJ sets, and social dancing.
- Indoor Gala at the Victoria Convention centre: performances, African fashion shows, live music.
- Workshops and Social Dancing.

### Comments on Recommendation

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

## 2025 January Project Grants – Recommendation Summary

Categories: OT = one-time project; SS = short series of events; EXT = extended programming

	Jurisdiction	Project Category	2025 Request	2025 Recommendation
<b>ALTER ARTS SOCIETY</b>	Victoria	EXT	12,000	0

**Funding History:** 2021 JanPG: \$0; 2021 AprPG: \$7200; 2022 JanPG: \$7200; 2023 EQ: \$0; 2024 JanPG: \$6000

### Mandate

Alter Arts' mandate is to make the world a better place by creating and supporting artistic, educational, environmental, and social activities and events.

### Project Summary

#### *Out There Festival*

Our newest iteration of our recurring festival titled Out There Fest – is called “A Cozy Queer Affair.” This is a free, two-day, all-ages, fall pride celebration at the Oaklands Community Centre. The event features two stages: one for storytelling and another for acoustic music – along with participatory workshops during the day and DJs and a fire show in the evening. The event is designed to provide a low-stimulation space for neurodiverse and queer individuals.

### Comments on Recommendation

This application scored in the bottom half of all applications and scored below a satisfactory level in the assessment category of project budget evaluation. It is not recommended for support at this time. The application could have benefited from more clarity overall and additional details about the nature of its project partnerships.

## 2025 January Project Grants – Recommendation Summary

Categories: OT = one-time project; SS = short series of events; EXT = extended programming

	Jurisdiction	Project Category	2025 Request	2025 Recommendation
<b>arc.hive ARTS SOCIETY</b>	Victoria	EXT	9750	0

**Funding History:** 2018 JanPG: \$10000; 2019 JanPG: \$7000; 2020 JanPG: \$10000; 2024 JanPG: \$0

### Mandate

arc.hive is committed to community arts engagement promoting the emergence and development of inclusive collaborative practices in contemporary arts (visual, performative, writing, video, installation, new media, and sound). Our mandate focuses on: supporting emerging artists demonstrating commitment to their practice; fostering excellence and professionalism in the visual arts; facilitating experimental, collaborative practice and exchanges among artists, performers and writers; and educating/engaging our community in visual arts practices eg interactive exhibitions and workshops.

### Project Summary

#### *Extended Gallery Programming*

To facilitate and build upon Gallery programming in the main gallery and hallways of arc.hive:

- 7 juried exhibitions, one in collaboration with the Victoria Arts Council
- One unpaid member exhibit
- 2 months of artist residencies
- Honoraria for Indigenous elders and Cultural Carriers providing territorial acknowledgements and giving talks
- Juror fees for the exhibition season

### Comments on Recommendation

This application scored in the bottom half of all applications and scored below a satisfactory level in multiple assessment categories, including accessibility, community benefits, and project budget evaluation. It is not recommended for support at this time. The application could have benefited from more detailed information about the artists involved in the exhibitions.

## 2025 January Project Grants – Recommendation Summary

Categories: OT = one-time project; SS = short series of events; EXT = extended programming

(new)	<b>Jurisdiction</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2025</b>
<b>ArtisTREE FESTIVAL SOCIETY</b>	Victoria	<b>Category</b> OT	<b>Request</b> 10,000	<b>Recommendation</b> 0

**Funding History:** N/A

### Mandate

#### Purposes

- To celebrate arts and culture through an annual festival featuring visual art, live music, artisan work, Indigenous traditions, performing arts, children’s activities and food.
- To offer a diverse multifaceted artistic experience set in nature, invoking connection and inspiration.
- To recognize the beauty of urban green spaces and gardens as uplifting and of intrinsic value.
- To foster community engagement and education by offering programming that connects the public with the arts.
- To create exciting experiences of art and creativity for all ages, ethnicities, abilities and identities.
- To support artists by providing opportunities to showcase work, collaborate and reach new audiences.
- To enrich the region's cultural and economic vitality through cross cultural exchange and support the creative economy thus growing the capacity, sustainability and innovation of BC’s and Canada's Arts Sector.
- To build a cultural draw for the local tourism economy, supporting not only artist, artisan, makers and musicians, but Victoria’s business and tourism sector.

### Project Summary

#### *ArtisTREE Festival*

“Celebrating Creativity” ArtisTREE Festival brings together art and creativity in a plethora of expressions including art and artisans, music, performance and food. Includes: 150+ Juried Artisans: Showcasing handcrafted and creative works from diverse local and regional makers, live music , cultural demonstrations and workshops led by Indigenous Cultural Carriers and local creators, interactive art installations (2 children’s art schools will engage families in hands-on creation), demonstration artists, and performance artists circulating through the grounds to spark attention and curiosity.

### Comments on Recommendation

This application scored below a satisfactory level in the assessment category of project budget evaluation. It is not recommended for support at this time. The application could have benefited from more primary focus on artistic activities in a festival setting rather than a market-driven artisan approach.

## 2025 January Project Grants – Recommendation Summary

Categories: OT = one-time project; SS = short series of events; EXT = extended programming

(new)	<b>Jurisdiction</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2025</b>
<b>BETWEEN WORDS</b>		<b>Category</b>	<b>Request</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
<b>THEATRE SOCIETY</b>	Victoria	OT	5,000	0

**Funding History:** N/A

### Mandate

Started in January 2023 to help grow community theatre in Victoria by providing a stage for a diversity of local talent and voices to share their stories and art. From the constitution:

- To provide opportunities for individuals and groups to participate in community theatre and other artistic expressions.
- To build community for artists and arts workers

### Project Summary

*Victoria One Act Play Festival*

The festival is a 4-5 day event showcasing new works by local playwrights, actors, and directors. This is the festival's third year, with previous iterations engaging over 90 artists a year and selling out due to high demand. It celebrates Victoria's artistic talent, supports emerging voices, and promotes inclusivity by reducing barriers to participation.

The goal of this grant is to further reduce barriers to entry by providing stipends to each performance that participates in the festival. We have seen that groups spend between \$50-\$400 covering costs of rehearsal rentals, props/costumes and rights to soundtracks. By helping to offset these costs, we can ensure that groups with financial barriers can still participate in the festival.

### Comments on Recommendation

This application scored in the bottom half of all applications and scored below a satisfactory level in multiple assessment categories, including description of the project, identification of key personnel, and accessibility. It is not recommended for support at this time. The application could have benefited from more detailed information about the process of engagement with equity-seeking groups and adjudication process.

## 2025 January Project Grants – Recommendation Summary

Categories: OT = one-time project; SS = short series of events; EXT = extended programming

	Jurisdiction	Project Category	2025 Request	2025 Recommendation
<b>BLUE BRIDGE THEATRE SOCIETY</b>	Victoria	OT	10,000	7,000

**Funding History:** 2015 AprPG: \$5000; 2016 OP-A: \$0; 2016 JanPG: \$10000; 2017 JanPG: \$0; 2017 AprPG: 11,250; 2018 OP-A: 0, 2018 JanPG: \$5000; 2018 AprPG: \$0; 2020 JanPG: \$0; 2020 AprPG: \$0; 2021 JanPG: \$7500; 2022 JanPG: 7500; 2023 OP-A: \$0; 2023 JanPG: 9600; 2024 OP-A: \$0; 2024 AprPG: \$0

### Mandate

Blue Bridge Theatre Society's Mission is to provide

- Primarily Victoria based professional theatre artists the opportunity to engage with, and create, fresh contemporary interpretations of the great plays from the past or new works inspired by classic sources
- Significant creative opportunities to emerging professional theatre artists wishing to pursue a career in the arts
- The ability for these young actors, directors, writers, producers and other career professionals to train for, participate in, and occupy major creative, production and administrative roles alongside some of Canada's most established theatre artists
- The audiences of Greater Victoria its own professional theatre company that focuses on these masterworks, or new works inspired by these classic sources

### Project Summary

*Giovanni Starling – A New Classics Project*

Giovanni Starling and the Search for Mozart is a new work by Victoria playwright Jennifer Wise, a two-act musical fable informed by the true story of the starling who could sing Mozart's melodies. Taking place at the Baumann Centre, this one-week new play development process is a crucial step in ensuring that this exciting new play will be in a state of production readiness in time for its inclusion in Blue Bridge's 2026 summer season.

### Comments on Recommendation

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



## 2025 January Project Grants – Recommendation Summary

Categories: OT = one-time project; SS = short series of events; EXT = extended programming

	Jurisdiction	Project Category	2025 Request	2025 Recommendation
<b>CAMPBELL BAY MUSIC FESTIVAL</b>	SGI	EXT	10,000	8,000

**Funding History:** 2019 AprPG: \$2850; 2021 AprPG: \$7905; 2022 JanPG: \$8000; 2023 JanPG: \$6000; 2024 JanPG: \$8475

### Mandate

Campbell Bay Music Festival Society (CBMFS) is a non-profit organization supporting music, arts, and educational programming on SKTAK/Mayne Island. The purpose of the Society is to foster relationships across cultural and generational gaps guided by the values of revitalization, reconciliation, and restoration, through the curation and support of community events, performing arts, and educational programming on Mayne Island.

### Project Summary

*Spring Ball, Celebrating Indigenous Arts, Music at the Lighthouse*

- Spring Ball: NaMara (traditional music, Victoria) leads an all-ages contra dance
- Celebrating Indigenous Arts: 6-week Salish art exhibit, artist talks and workshops; culminating in an outdoor community celebration picnic and gathering led by the youth drummers and dancers from the WSANEC Tribal School
- Music at the Lighthouse: in collaboration with the Southern Gulf Islands Arts Council, we are hosting an afternoon picnic concert at the former Lighthouse Keeper's residence.

### Comments on Recommendation

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

## 2025 January Project Grants – Recommendation Summary

Categories: OT = one-time project; SS = short series of events; EXT = extended programming

	Jurisdiction	Project Category	2025 Request	2025 Recommendation
<b>CHORAL EVOLUTION SOCIETY</b>	Sooke	SS	5,000	0

**Funding History:** 2023 JanPG: \$3000; 2024 JanPG: \$2500

### Mandate

To promote the arts and share the gift of song.

### Project Summary

*Choral Evolution 2025 Winter Concert Season*

We work weekly (every Wednesday) and have 3 Concerts at this time of year. Dates TBD, these concerts will be directed by our artistic director and accompanied by our pianist plus select professional musicians such as a percussionist, guitarist, bass guitarist, a cellist, a violinist, and a trumpet player. We are a unique choir in that we have a longer rehearsal schedule, more sectionals and sing new music each year. We invest in high quality rehearsal materials and tracks. We also focus on a better set and costumes.

### Comments on Recommendation

This application scored in the bottom half of all applications and scored below a satisfactory level in multiple assessment categories, including approach to paying artists, identification of key personnel, community benefits, and benefits to underrepresented groups. It is not recommended for support at this time. The application could have benefited from greater clarity in the responses and more detailed information about the location of all activities as some of the concerts were identified to be in Colwood and/or Langford, which are not participating jurisdictions of the CRD Arts Service.

## 2025 January Project Grants – Recommendation Summary

Categories: OT = one-time project; SS = short series of events; EXT = extended programming

	Jurisdiction	Project Category	2025 Request	2025 Recommendation
<b>EINE KLEINE SUMMER MUSIC SOCIETY</b>	View Royal	OT	3,965	0

**Funding History:** 2012 JanPG: \$1500; 2013 JanPG: \$2500; 2014 JanPG: \$2000; 2015 JanPG: \$2700; 2016 JanPG: \$2500; 2017 JanPG: \$2000; 2018 JanPG: \$2000; 2019 JanPG: \$2000; 2020 JanPG: \$0; 2024 JanPG: \$0

### Mandate

Founded in 1987, Eine Kleine Summer Music is the longest running summer Classical music event in greater Victoria. We are a not-for-profit organization presenting world-class chamber music concerts at affordable prices, allowing seniors, students and the general public to enjoy top quality performances by local musicians as well as distinguished guests from around the world. We present chamber music in a unique rural setting, in a bright modern church with exceptional acoustics.

### Project Summary

#### *Galvin Cello Quartet performance*

The Galvin Cello Quartet explores the limitless range of a cello ensemble by bringing together new works from diverse cultural backgrounds while seeking to establish the cello quartet as a core part of the classical music world. Composed of members from Brazil, South Korea, and the United States.

### Comments on Recommendation

This application scored in the bottom third of all applications and scored below a satisfactory level in the assessment categories of accessibility and community benefits. It is not recommended for support at this time. There were multiple applications in this application intake that supported classical music and other applications had a broader reach and more local artists involved.

## 2025 January Project Grants – Recommendation Summary

Categories: OT = one-time project; SS = short series of events; EXT = extended programming

	Jurisdiction	Project Category	2025 Request	2025 Recommendation
<b>EMBRACE ARTS FOUNDATION</b>	Victoria	OT	10,000	7,000

**Funding History:** 2018 JanPG: \$9500; 2020 AprPG: \$9340; 2021 AprPG: \$6425;  
2022 AprPG: \$7600; 2023 AprPG: \$9250;  
2024 AprPG: \$8000 (application withdrawn)

### Mandate

Embrace’s core mission is to create meaningful artistic opportunities for individuals of all abilities. The specific objectives and purpose of Embrace are:

- A. To advance the public’s access to and appreciation of the arts by providing high-quality artistic performances in public venues.
- B. To advance arts education by providing:
  - classes and workshops on topics related to dance, music, theatre, and visual arts to individuals of all abilities;
  - instructional adaptive dance, music, theatre, and visual arts programs to disabled individuals;
  - structured mentorship opportunities on topics related to arts for disabled artists
- C. To promote the ongoing development of inclusion and accessibility in the arts through programming and public education initiatives.

### Project Summary

#### *In Wonder*

We are looking to create an original piece of disability-led screendance called *In Wonder*. It will be an exploration of different forms of light-based phenomena (such as the aurora borealis, lightning, sunset, etc) and how they mirror our experience of community. This piece of contemporary dance theatre will be set to a nearly original score, which will be created for the film by local composers. We began our exploration with this project in fall 2024 with two residencies (with Dance Victoria and Impulse Theatre) for some members of our core artistic team to explore the early stage of the piece. Now we have a concrete working plan: creating the music, starting dance rehearsals, filming the piece, editing and adding animation, and then showing the piece at an in-person event at the Vic Theatre, plus having the film digitally available for one week.

### Comments on Recommendation

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

## 2025 January Project Grants – Recommendation Summary

Categories: OT = one-time project; SS = short series of events; EXT = extended programming

	Jurisdiction	Project Category	2025 Request	2025 Recommendation
<b>FIFTY FIFTY ARTS COLLECTIVE</b>	Victoria	EXT	8,557	0

**Funding History:** 2012 JanPG: \$2300; 2013 JanPG: \$4500; 2014 AprPG: \$6500; 2016 JanPG: \$6000; 2017 JanPG: \$8000; 2018 JanPG: \$8000; 2019 JanPG: \$6500; 2020 JanPG: \$6000; 2021 JanPG: \$7950; 2022 JanPG: \$7300; 2023 JanPG: \$6375; 2024 JanPG: \$0

### Mandate

The Fifty Fifty Arts Collective is a not-for-profit, volunteer-run, multi-disciplinary programming space that supports both emerging and established artists. We are committed to the underground, the underdog, the experimental and the emergent; to curatorial proposals, workshops and skill-sharing; and to group exhibitions, collaborations and artist talks. We seek to make our exhibition space viable to artists outside of Vancouver Island and the Lower Mainland, in order to exhibit work and share it with our communities, thereby deepening both our critical and innovative engagement with the arts.

### Project Summary

#### *2025 Gallery Exhibition Series and Special Programming*

The Fifty Fifty Arts Collective is seeking funding to support the 2025 programming year, which includes visual, installation, performing, musical, and cultural arts activities. In 2025, the Fifty Fifty Arts Collective will host 12 individual 3.5-week visual arts exhibits (including paintings, sculpture, textile, etc) by local and visiting artists. These exhibitions will encompass multiple formats in the gallery location and online, and will also include supplementary activities, such as workshops and artist talks, opening and closing events, small musical events, and more. The Collective will also coordinate with local arts organizations to create connections between programming and local artists, through exhibition space at festivals, such as the Queer Arts Festival hosted by the VAC.

### Comments on Recommendation

This application scored in the bottom third of all applications and scored below a satisfactory level in the assessment category of project budget evaluation. It is not recommended for support at this time. The application could have benefited from more detailed information about the artists involved in the exhibitions and a more compact schedule with higher artist fees.

## 2025 January Project Grants – Recommendation Summary

Categories: OT = one-time project; SS = short series of events; EXT = extended programming

	Jurisdiction	Project Category	2025 Request	2025 Recommendation
<b>FLAMENCO DE LA ISLA SOCIETY</b>	Victoria	SS	10,000	7,000

**Funding History:** 2013 AprPG: \$5000; 2014 JanPG: \$5000; 2015 JanPG: \$6000; 2016 JanPG: \$7000; 2017 JanPG: \$7000; 2018 JanPG: \$8000; 2019 JanPG: \$7000; 2020 JanPG: \$7000; 2021 JanPG: \$10000; 2022 JanPG: \$6000; 2023 JanPG: \$5700

### Mandate

The purposes of the Society are:

- a) to promote awareness of the art of flamenco in Greater Victoria and on Vancouver Island;
- b) to advance the knowledge, understanding, and appreciation of flamenco through education, financial support, and performance opportunities for professional, amateur, and aspiring flamenco artists on Vancouver Island;
- c) to stimulate and encourage the development of flamenco related projects and activities that will broaden the understanding, involvement, and support for the art of flamenco; and
- d) to act as a community resource for information on the art of flamenco.

### Project Summary

*Victoria Flamenco Music Society*

In 2025, the Flamenco de la Isla Society (FDLI) presents the inaugural Victoria Flamenco Music Intensive. World-class invited performers and mentors will supercharge collaboration across flamenco music, song, and dance, providing performance opportunities to emerging, established, and professional artists. From July 16-27, the Society will present a range of free and ticketed events that provide performance opportunities for local talent, maximize public engagement, and welcome world-class guest artists to the CRD.

### Comments on Recommendation

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

## 2025 January Project Grants – Recommendation Summary

Categories: OT = one-time project; SS = short series of events; EXT = extended programming

	Jurisdiction	Project Category	2025 Request	2025 Recommendation
<b>GARDEN CITY ELECTRONIC MUSIC</b>	Victoria	EXT	15,000	15,000

**Funding History:** 2018 JanPG: \$2000; 2019 JanPG: \$1500; 2020 JanPG: \$3000;  
2021 JanPG: \$6000; 2022 JanPG: \$10000; 2023 JanPG: \$12000;  
2024 JanPG: \$8000

### Mandate

The purposes of the Society are: (1) To advance the public’s appreciation of the arts by producing public art exhibitions, presentations, and performance art(s) events, and by providing a forum for qualified artists to exhibit, present, or perform their artistic works through participation in such events; (2) To advance education by providing structured learning activities such as courses, instructional seminars, and workshops about electronic music and electronic music technology, and by providing opportunities for artists to publicly exhibit, present, or perform their works, or develop their crafts or skills in conjunction with these learning activities; and (3) To do all such things as are ancillary and incidental to the attainment of the above charitable purposes.

### Project Summary

*Wonderment & NeuzTec, 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Editions*

Wonderment celebrates its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary edition as Victoria's “big tent” ambient music festival focused on live electronic and electro-acoustic music performance. While traditional ambient music is presented, Wonderment also reaches out into adjacent genres such as jazz, world and post-rock/pop. Live video art performances, sound sculptures and media art installations can also make up Wonderment programming.

NeuzTec is a smaller endeavour, featuring a range of experimental and new music, plus media art and workshop events. The Friday showcase features longer durational performances. NeuzTec’s main programming day is a sonic laboratory of sorts, with short durational (15-30 minutes) performances that take place back-to-back in a near- continuous program of music running throughout the Saturday afternoon and evening.

### Comments on 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 four of all applications received at this granting intake. The recommendation is for the full amount of the grant request.

## 2025 January Project Grants – Recommendation Summary

Categories: OT = one-time project; SS = short series of events; EXT = extended programming

	Jurisdiction	Project Category	2025 Request	2025 Recommendation
<b>GREATER VICTORIA FESTIVAL SOCIETY</b>	Victoria	OT	19,250	0

**Funding History:** 2021 JanPG: \$0; 2022 JanPG: \$0

### Mandate

Our mandate is to:

- **Celebrate Cultural Diversity:** Promote and showcase the rich tapestry of cultures within Greater Victoria through events that highlight artistic, linguistic, and heritage practices.
- **Enhance Community Engagement:** Create opportunities for residents and visitors to connect, participate, and contribute to community-driven initiatives.
- **Support Local Artists and Businesses:** Provide platforms for local creators, performers, and entrepreneurs to share their work, gain exposure, and thrive economically.
- **Promote Accessibility and Inclusion:** Ensure that all events are welcoming and accessible to people of all abilities, backgrounds, and income levels, fostering equity and representation.
- **Drive Economic and Tourism Growth:** Contribute to the region’s economic vitality by organizing events that attract visitors, generate local spending, and support the tourism industry.

### Project Summary

#### *One World Cultural Festival*

The event, held on Victoria Day weekend on the Legislature lawn, will feature two components:

- **Interactive Art Showcase:** A dynamic and participatory display where attendees of all ages can contribute creatively. Activities will include an artist showcase, interactive art exhibits as well as interactive performances. Attendees of all ages and abilities will be encouraged to participate.
- **One World Cultural Festival:** A vibrant celebration of cultural diversity, featuring live performances and interactive experiences that highlight the traditions, music, and arts of communities across Vancouver Island.

### Comments on Recommendation

This application scored in the bottom half of all applications and scored below a satisfactory level in multiple assessment categories, including development of artists, identification of key personnel, community benefits, and project budget evaluation. It is not recommended for support at this time. The application could have benefited from more explanation of the event conception, approach to multi-culturalism, and details on the selection and payment of artists.



## 2025 January Project Grants – Recommendation Summary

Categories: OT = one-time project; SS = short series of events; EXT = extended programming

	Jurisdiction	Project Category	2025 Request	2025 Recommendation
<b>GREATER VICTORIA</b>				
<b>FOLK FESTIVAL</b>	Saanich	OT	5,000	0

**Funding History:** 2020 JanPG: \$0

### Mandate

Folkloria is an annual, admission-free, multicultural festival exclusively featuring performances from local cultural groups. The Greater Victoria Folk Festival Society's Folkloria event celebrates multicultural music, dance, song, and provides access to cultural and local service provider information booths promoting engagement through interactive games, conversation, and hands-on activities. Folkloria provides an interactive experience that encourages engagement and participation. This event is designed to foster a sense of unity and appreciation for the rich cultural heritage that exists within Greater Victoria's community.

### Project Summary

#### *Folkloria*

Folkloria provides a chance once a year for cultural performance to inhabit Centennial Square to share the extensive wealth our immigrant communities have to share. By offering this platform, Folkloria supports local artists and fosters a deeper understanding and appreciation of diverse cultural traditions within our community. The festival serves as a bridge, connecting people from various backgrounds through the universal languages of instrumental music, dance, and song. Folkloria also plays a crucial role in introducing the community to the rich cultural heritage that exists in Greater Victoria. Whether performers or audience members, attendees can explore and celebrate the beauty of multiculturalism. Folkloria offers numerous opportunities for cultural exchange and connection.

### Comments on Recommendation

This application scored in the bottom half of all applications and scored below a satisfactory level in multiple assessment categories, including project description, development of artists, payment of artists, identification of key personnel, accessibility, community benefits, and project budget evaluation. It is not recommended for support at this time. The application could have benefited from more detail and a greater emphasis on artist compensation.

## 2025 January Project Grants – Recommendation Summary

Categories: OT = one-time project; SS = short series of events; EXT = extended programming

	Jurisdiction	Project Category	2025 Request	2025 Recommendation
<b>HISPANIC FILM SOCIETY OF VICTORIA</b>	View Royal	EXT	4,500	3,600

**Funding History:** 2013 IDEA: \$2000; 2014 JanPG: \$3000; 2015 JanPG: \$2500; 2016 JanPG: \$3000; 2017 JanPG: \$3000; 2018 JanPG: \$3500; 2019 JanPG: \$3500; 2020 JanPG: \$3000; 2022 JanPG: \$3500; 2023 JanPG: \$4000; 2024 JanPG: \$2500

### Mandate

The mandate of our organization is:

- (a) To promote Latin American and Spanish cinema in Victoria through the organization of an annual Latin American and Spanish Film Week, and
- (b) To further the knowledge and enjoyment of films produced in Latin America and Spain through cultural and academic events for the benefit of the community.

### Project Summary

*15<sup>th</sup> Latin American and Spanish Film Week and Cultural Fair*

We plan to show six or seven movies, and this year we want the Film Week to have a Cuban focus. We have programmed two Cuban movies and have arranged for one director in Havana to present his movie and give a community talk. We also plan to organize a music show and hire local Cuban musicians to perform. This event will be hybrid: a music performance and a short talk by each guest about the Cuban rhythms with which they grew up, they practice, and that are more culturally significant.

### Comments on Recommendation

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

## 2025 January Project Grants – Recommendation Summary

Categories: OT = one-time project; SS = short series of events; EXT = extended programming

	Jurisdiction	Project Category	2025 Request	2025 Recommendation
<b>ISLAND STRING PLAYERS SOCIETY</b>	Saanich	SS	8,000	0

**Funding History:** 2012 JanPG: \$7000; 2013 JanPG: \$6000; 2014 JanPG: \$5000; 2016 JanPG: \$5000; 2017 JanPG: \$3000; 2018 JanPG: \$2000; 2019 JanPG: \$1500; 2020 JanPG: \$0; 2021 AprPG: \$1500; 2022 AprPG: \$0; 2024 JanPG: \$4000

### Mandate

The purposes of the Society are:

- a. To promote and advance music for strings by forming at least one string orchestra to give public performances.
- b. To support the development of student string instrumentalists.

### Project Summary

#### *Raven Baroque Summer Celebrations*

Raven Baroque, a group of 9-10 musicians in baroque period dress and wigs, performs six free, open-air concerts in August on Mt. Tolmie, the courtyard of the Victoria Public Library, the Cameron Bandshell, Christ Church Cathedral on the lawn, and the Esplanade lawn in Oak Bay.

### Comments on Recommendation

This application scored in the bottom half of all applications and scored below a satisfactory level in multiple assessment categories, including accessibility and benefits for underrepresented groups. It is not recommended for support at this time. There were multiple applications in this application intake that supported classical music and other applications had a more defined impact.

## 2025 January Project Grants – Recommendation Summary

Categories: OT = one-time project; SS = short series of events; EXT = extended programming

	Jurisdiction	Project Category	2025 Request	2025 Recommendation
<b>NEWCOMBE SINGERS ASSOCIATION</b>	Oak Bay	OT	5,250	4,000

**Funding History:** 2024 JanPG: \$2250

### Mandate

- We are proud to be a 50 year+ non-auditioned community choir what welcomes singers of all ages and ability levels. We aim to be accessible by keeping our fees very affordable.
- We are committed to paying our director and accompanist a competitive wage with appropriate raises.
- Though our "Choral Bridges" concert series, we have invited and worked with other cultural groups to enrich our performances and showcase the work of cultures that are not well represented in classical choral music.
- We are committed to performing works by living composers with a special focus on Canadian and Indigenous composers.

### Project Summary

#### *Ocean*

"Ocean", the spring 2025 concert of the Newcombe Singers is a hymn to the beauty, mystery and majesty of the world's oceans. This concert uses the power of choral music to inspire affection towards our oceans and an awareness of the essential role our oceans play in sustaining life on our planet. One of the directors of the Shaw Centre for the Salish Sea will speak during intermission about how people can help preserve ocean health. The Centre will bring "ambassadors of the sea"-sea creatures in mobile salt-water tanks that people can see and even touch, as well as providing written information on how we can support important research and become patrons of this amazing learning centre.

### Comments on Recommendation

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

## 2025 January Project Grants – Recommendation Summary

Categories: OT = one-time project; SS = short series of events; EXT = extended programming

	Jurisdiction	Project Category	2025 Request	2025 Recommendation
<b>NOBLE RIOT DANCE THEATRE</b>	Victoria	OT	12,000	9,600

**Funding History:** 2021 INC: \$5000; 2022 AprPG: \$6600; 2023 JanPG: \$7500; 2024 JanPG: \$7000

### Mandate

"To create and produce high quality, innovative and professional contemporary dance. To challenge the audience to look at dance differently."

NOBLE RIOT DANCE THEATRE is committed to making art that addresses our global existence, questions the dominant culture, provokes emotional responses and inquires.

### Project Summary

*Creation & Presentation – “The Cledon”*

Noble Riot Dance Theatre (NRDT) is applying to support the final phase of creation (Phase 3) and a formal presentation of the company’s newest contemporary dance piece, "The Cledon".

The creation periods are May 5-9 and August 25-29, 2025, and two shows will be on August 30, 2025, all taking place at Dance Victoria.

- Complete the creation for the piece, after previously completing two successful creation phases; Phase 1 (Vienna, Austria in March 2024), and Phase 2 (Victoria in August 2024).
- Presentation for live audience.
- The capturing of strong video support material - Crucially needed to secure future funding for new projects and for touring the work.
- The merging of four disciplines; contemporary dance, projections, textiles/costume design, and live/interactive music.

### Comments on Recommendation

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

## 2025 January Project Grants – Recommendation Summary

Categories: OT = one-time project; SS = short series of events; EXT = extended programming

	Jurisdiction	Project Category	2025 Request	2025 Recommendation
<b>OTHER GUYS/GUISE THEATRE COMPANY</b>	Victoria	OT	10,000	0

**Funding History:** 2012 JanPG: \$7000; 2013 JanPG: \$8000; 2014 AprPG: \$12000; 2015 AprPG: \$12000; 2017 AprPG: 11250; 2018 AprPG: \$10000; 2019 AprPG: \$0; 2020 AprPG: \$8000; 2023 AprPG: \$10000; 2024 JanPG: \$0; 2024 AprPG: \$6012

### Mandate

The purposes of the Society are:

- a) To promote the theatrical arts through the production of project work that showcases local talent.
- b) To develop new Canadian plays and encourage a high standard of writing for the stage through an active and ongoing play development programme.

Other Guise is committed to developing theatrical presentations which reflect the history and culture of our community, and to supporting the livelihoods of Vancouver Island professionals; established and emerging artists alike. Other Guise is a community-motivated theatre company that makes world-class productions that often tour internationally. Other Guise serves a wide range of artist and audiences of the Pacific Northwest by nurturing productions and propelling careers, and by finding, renovating and operating shared performance spaces.

### Project Summary

#### *Labyrinth*

Labyrinth is a large-scale, follow-the-path show. Entering one at a time, audience pass by incredible visual art pieces, interacting and conversing with performers who have intimate personal conversations unique to each guest. They encounter music and moments of solitude. There are periods of reflection and areas of the path teeming with sound art or video installations. As the individual continues, they discover they are the lead character in a story full of hope.

### Comments on Recommendation

This application scored in the bottom half of all applications and scored below a satisfactory level in multiple assessment categories, including project description, projected audience, community benefits and project budget evaluation. It is not recommended for support at this time. The application could have benefited from more explanation of why last year's grant to fund this project was not realized in the way that it was proposed and a more realistic assessment of the projected audience.

## 2025 January Project Grants – Recommendation Summary

Categories: OT = one-time project; SS = short series of events; EXT = extended programming

	Jurisdiction	Project Category	2025 Request	2025 Recommendation
<b>PULCHERIE MBOUSSI FOUNDATION</b>	Victoria	OT	10,000	0

**Funding History:** 2024 EQ: \$0

### Mandate

The Pulcherie Mboussi Foundation’s mandate centers on the following objectives:

1. Cultural Preservation: To preserve, celebrate, and promote the rich cultural heritage, traditions, and histories of people of African descent and people of color.
2. Empowerment: To empower individuals and communities through initiatives that foster leadership, self-expression, creativity, and economic development.
3. Community Support: To provide resources, programs, and spaces that enhance the well-being, inclusion, and representation of people of African descent and other marginalized communities.

### Project Summary

#### *Festival AfriCa Fest*

Festival AfriCa Fest 2025 is an annual celebration of African and Afro-descendant arts, culture, and heritage, with the main events hosted at prominent venues, including Centennial Square, to ensure accessibility and visibility. Various satellite activities, such as workshops and panel discussions, will also be held in community spaces across the Capital Regional District. This year’s theme emphasizes inclusivity, cultural exchange, and unity. The program includes live music from local and international artists, traditional drumming and dance zones, children’s creative activities, a multicultural marketplace, and a culinary experience featuring African and Caribbean cuisine.

### Comments on Recommendation

This application scored in the bottom half of all applications and scored below a satisfactory level in multiple assessment categories, including payment of artists, identification of key personnel, accessibility, and project budget evaluation. It is not recommended for support at this time. The application could have benefited from more detailed information about the artists involved.

## 2025 January Project Grants – Recommendation Summary

Categories: OT = one-time project; SS = short series of events; EXT = extended programming

(new)	<b>Jurisdiction</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2025</b>
<b>SINNERGY PRODUCTIONS &amp; ENTERTAINMENT</b>	Victoria	<b>Category</b> SS	<b>Request</b> 5,000	<b>Recommendation</b> 0

**Funding History:** N/A

### Mandate

To supply empowering and inclusive burlesque and dance classes to Victoria BC, and produce high quality cabarets and showcases in Victoria BC highlighting our local burlesque and drag community.

### Project Summary

*SINnergy Show Series 2025/2026*

Four upcoming shows:

Political Affair - Passion & Performance - May 24 2025 - This is a burlesque and drag cabaret with the theme being all things political. We invite numbers that punch up to the 1%, bring attention to societies blindness and insensitivity, and help bring awareness to whats happening in the world.

SINnergy Showcase - Passion & Performance - August 23 2025 - A drag and burlesque Showcase! No theme, anything goes!

SINnergy Unleashed - White Eagle Hall - Nov 22, 2025 - SINnergy unleashed is a celebration in all things dark and desirable. It's a celebration of all bodies being sexy and deserving of love and worship. A drag and burlesque cabaret

Freaks & Geeks - Metro Theatre - Feb 22, 2026 - Drag and Burlesque Cabaret featuring all things nerdy and geeky! From Star Wars to Mario, we have all types of nerdy here.

### Comments on Recommendation

This application scored in the bottom half of all applications and scored below a satisfactory level in multiple assessment categories, including identification of key personnel, community benefits, and project budget evaluation. It is not recommended for support at this time. The application could have benefited from greater clarity and more detail in multiple responses.



## 2025 January Project Grants – Recommendation Summary

Categories: OT = one-time project; SS = short series of events; EXT = extended programming

	Jurisdiction	Project Category	2025 Request	2025 Recommendation
<b>SOCIETE FRANCOPHONE DE VICTORIA</b>	Victoria	EXT	15,000	15,000

**Funding History:** 2022 JanPG: \$5500; 2024 JanPG: \$11250

### Mandate

La Société francophone de Victoria's mandate is to promote and celebrate French language and culture in Greater Victoria through a variety of cultural and artistic programs. The Society also runs a francophone community centre in Bastion Square called la Maison de la francophonie, where it supports other francophone non-profits and its members.

### Project Summary

#### *French Programming in the CRD*

La Société francophone de Victoria presents over 125 arts and culture projects, events, and programs every year in Greater Victoria for French-speaking people. Our yearly programming begins with an annual summer festival, les Rendez-vous Victoria, which showcases local French-speaking artists in a weekly summer patio series. It also includes other cultural events such as weekly senior meetups, outdoor French movie nights and family friendly activities to celebrate holidays. Rendez-vous Victoria also partners with festivals around the Capital Region to showcase French talent, such as Victoria Pride Festival, Refugee Picnic, Oaklands Market, Ska Festival and many francophone associations like l'Alliance française and Radio Victoria.

In Fall and Winter we host monthly meetups for seniors (Café-causerie), monthly themed meetups (Le Coquetel), a concert series, a movie series (Ciné-franco), monthly hikes and many family celebrations. La Société also partners with francophone organizations to bring various programs to French-speaking people in the Capital Region. Les Petits matins is a weekly meetup for parent and tots, Les Balades Hantée are French Ghostly Walks that are offered in partnership with Discover the Past, and La Chorale les Décibels is a Francophone Choir.

Franco Fest is la Société's annual celebration of French culture which hosts a series of concerts, workshops and activities highlighting French-speaking artists.

### Comments on 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 four of all applications received at this granting intake. The recommendation is for the full amount of the grant request.

## 2025 January Project Grants – Recommendation Summary

Categories: OT = one-time project; SS = short series of events; EXT = extended programming

	Jurisdiction	Project Category	2025 Request	2025 Recommendation
<b>SOUTHERN GULF ISLANDS ARTS COUNCIL</b>	SGI	EXT	6,760	0

**Funding History:** 2020 JanPG: \$4500; 2022 AprPG: \$1000

### Mandate

The Southern Gulf Islands Arts Council fosters and promotes sustainable, creative ventures and cultural activity for the benefit of Galiano Island, Mayne Island, Pender Island and Saturna Island community members and visitors alike.

### Project Summary

*Arts on the Islands*

#### Arts on the Islands Regional Exhibition

An inclusive, non juried, 3-day visual arts exhibition featuring work from approximately 50 established and emerging artists from the Southern Gulf Islands archipelago- including Galiano, Mayne, Pender and Saturna Islands. An opportunity for established and emerging artists to collaborate in mounting an exhibition and for visitors and residents to delight in viewing a wide range of 2-D and 3-D works. In the Mayne Island Agricultural Hall, June 6-8, 2025

#### Music at the Lighthouse

Residents and visitors to the Gulf Island National Park on Mayne Island will be invited to bring a picnic and attend a live late afternoon - early evening all-ages concert featuring Southern Gulf Islands Musicians at this iconic island location. A collaboration with the Campbell Bay Music Festival (CBMF), the concert will also celebrate and raise awareness about the Southern Gulf Islands Arts Council's new regional arts hub and exhibition space at the Georgina Point Lighthouse Keepers' Residence. At Georgina Point Lighthouse, Mayne Island, Jul 27, 2025

### Comments on Recommendation

This application scored below a satisfactory level in the assessment category of accessibility. It is not recommended for support at this time. The application could have benefited from higher fees paid to artists in one project activity and explaining why the other project activity also had a funding request for the same event in this granting intake from Campbell Bay Music Festival.

## 2025 January Project Grants – Recommendation Summary

Categories: OT = one-time project; SS = short series of events; EXT = extended programming

(new)	<b>Jurisdiction</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2025</b>
<b>SPEC THEATRE</b>		<b>Category</b>	<b>Request</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
<b>SOCIETY</b>	Victoria	OT	8,750	0

**Funding History:** N/A

### Mandate

Spec Theatre's mandate is to create and collaborate on new, local works highlighting social ponderings, issues and structures, often through an absurdist lens. Additionally, our work focuses on accessibility of theatre, through supporting inclusive initiatives such as relaxed performances, Pay What You Can ticketing structures, free ticket offers to local organizations, donations at each show going to local Indigenous organizations, as well as continuing DEI actionables within our policies and board structures.

### Project Summary

#### *The Human Cat Experience*

The Human Cat Experience is an absurdist stage-bound road trip adventure. Set 4000 years in the future, when humans are the size of cats and cats are the size of humans, two bonded cats, high on catnip, must make an unexpected journey to Catsco to pick up kitty litter.

The goal is to bring the show to the Victoria Fringe Festival through the Unconventional Series (Bring Your Own Venue) at the end of August and then do a week's run of the show in October/November at the SKAM Satellite Studio space. From there, the focus would be revamping the show, with a tentative second show being produced by one of the local companies (Intrepid Theatre - Incoming Series or Theatre SKAM) in March or another self-produced run at that time.

### Comments on Recommendation

This application scored in the bottom half of all applications and scored below a satisfactory level in the assessment category of project budget evaluation. It is not recommended for support at this time. The application could have benefited from greater feasibility of project realization due to uncertainty around the outcome of Fringe lottery and thus no confirmed venue.

## 2025 January Project Grants – Recommendation Summary

Categories: OT = one-time project; SS = short series of events; EXT = extended programming

	Jurisdiction	Project Category	2025 Request	2025 Recommendation
<b>SUDDENLY DANCE THEATRE</b>	Victoria	EXT	10,000	0

**Funding History:** 2016 JanPG: \$6500; 2017 JanPG: \$7000; 2018 JanPG: \$8000; 2019 JanPG: \$8000; 2020 JanPG: \$8000; 2021 AprPG: \$12000; 2022 JanPG: \$8000; 2023 JanPG: \$7500; 2024 JanPG: \$4500

### Mandate

The purposes of the Society are: To educate and provide opportunities for dancers and choreographers to improve in their craft; and, To educate and increase the public's understanding and appreciation of dance by providing performances of an artistic nature in public places.

Suddenly Dance Theatre's Mission is to support the development, creation, presentation, and preservation of the dance arts through collaboration and diverse media to reach the widest possible audience.

### Project Summary

#### *Suddenly 33<sup>rd</sup> Season*

Our Fountain of Youth Program supports dance artists under the age of 26 for building new and diverse choreographic voices. Up to 3 recipients will receive a choreographer's fee, dancers fees, 60 hrs rehearsal space via Dance Victoria, mentorship by Kathy Lang, and a paid LIVE 2-show performance at Kirk Hall in November.

Our Dance Media Program is a catalyst for reaching new audiences while supporting locally made media-works. Our resulting 5x 20 minute dance films will follow a presentation path of film festivals to broadcast worldwide, with Artist-Talk-Presentations planned in Victoria and Ireland.

In 2025, our MainStage Program will depend on the Belfry Theatre's schedule and commitment to the production of David Ferguson's 'In a Nutshell' starring Lynda Raino.

Works under our Outreach Program may be time-sensitive responses to opportunities, call-to-actions, or collaborative explorations. In May 2025, Directors Ferguson and Lowry will exhibit and discuss Suddenly Dance Theatre's works in residence at Áras Éanna, Ireland.

### Comments on Recommendation

This application scored in the bottom half of all applications and scored below a satisfactory level in multiple assessment categories, including accessibility, community benefits, and project budget evaluation. It is not recommended for support at this time. The application could have benefited from more emphasis on the presentation of arts programming in the Capital Region.

## 2025 January Project Grants – Recommendation Summary

Categories: OT = one-time project; SS = short series of events; EXT = extended programming

	Jurisdiction	Project Category	2025 Request	2025 Recommendation
<b>TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY ARTS COUNCIL</b>	Esquimalt	OT	10,000	0

**Funding History:** 2015 AprPG: \$4700; 2016 AprPG: \$10000; 2017 JanPG: \$8000; 2018 JanPG: \$6000; 2019 JanPG: \$7500; 2021 JanPG: \$10000; 2022 AprPG: \$3750; 2023 JanPG: \$0; 2024 JanPG: \$5000

### Mandate

The purpose of TCAC is to:

- Nurture and create opportunities to enjoy and participate in a wide range of artistic and cultural events, projects and activities within Esquimalt;
- Foster interest and pride in the arts and cultural heritage of this community;
- Stimulate and encourage development of arts and cultural projects, and the corresponding facilities and locations in which exhibitions and events may take place;
- Work with partners and local governments to promote action and deepen scope and impact of the arts in the community;
- Advocate for the arts; support and provide services to local artists and groups and share our knowledge and arts-related information with others;
- Acquire, accept, solicit and receive gifts, contributions, donations, bequests of money, property and rights and to hold, invest, allocate and use them to invest in projects, events, artists and art organizations; and
- Build membership and fulfill all such purposes as established by members of our Society.

### Project Summary

#### *Esquimalt Lantern Festival 2025*

A free, all-ages event that takes place in Gorge Park & Pavillion. We host a series of lantern-making sessions to repair and create lanterns, and then the main event begins at sunset with the appearance of giant puppets, and a marching band that leads the crowd around the park in a glowing procession. In each area, TCAC hires local musicians, puppeteers, and installation artists.

### Comments on Recommendation

This application scored in the bottom half of all applications and scored below a satisfactory level in multiple assessment categories, including community benefits, and project budget evaluation. It is not recommended for support at this time. The application could have benefited from more detailed information about responses to previous operational challenges in venue location.

## 2025 January Project Grants – Recommendation Summary

Categories: OT = one-time project; SS = short series of events; EXT = extended programming

	Jurisdiction	Project Category	2025 Request	2025 Recommendation
<b>VANCOUVER ISLAND CARIBBEAN HUB</b>	Victoria	EXT	10,000	8,000

**Funding History:** 2024 JanPG: \$6000 (under former name, I-Land Fest)

### Mandate

Vancouver Island Caribbean Hub is committed to being the leading organization on Vancouver Island dedicated to promoting and celebrating the rich arts and diverse cultures of the Caribbean through the development of vibrant events, educational programs, and community initiatives.

### Project Summary

#### *i-Land Fest 2025*

i-Land Fest is Vancouver Island's premier Caribbean Carnival, established in 2024 to celebrate and showcase the culture, music, and traditions of the Caribbean. While our primary focus is on Caribbean arts and culture, our mission naturally extends to African culture as well. This connection is deeply rooted in the shared history and cultural ties between the Caribbean and Africa, as many Caribbean traditions and heritage originate from African influences.

The inaugural i-Land Fest attracted approximately 6,000 attendees and 400 parade participants, establishing a strong foundation for growth. The 2025 edition will expand to a three-day event, held at Ship Point (Inner Harbour), bringing an even richer experience to the community.

Caribbean music, culture, and arts are underrepresented on the west coast of Canada, and i-Land Fest fills this gap by authentically showcasing the diversity of the Caribbean.

### Comments on Recommendation

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

## 2025 January Project Grants – Recommendation Summary

Categories: OT = one-time project; SS = short series of events; EXT = extended programming

	Jurisdiction	Project Category	2025 Request	2025 Recommendation
<b>VICTORIA FESTIVAL OF AUTHORS SOCIETY</b>	Victoria	SS	12,000	12,000

**Funding History:** 2017 JanPG: \$5000; 2018 JanPG: \$6000; 2019 JanPG: \$9000; 2020 JanPG: \$9000; 2021 AprPG: \$10000; 2022 JanPG: \$10000; 2023 JanPG: \$12000; 2024 JanPG: \$9000

### Mandate

The purpose of the Victoria Festival of Authors Society is:

- a) To preserve and promote the literary arts industry in British Columbia and Canada, and to maintain high standards in that industry by exhibiting to the public examples of high-quality works and by providing workshops, forums and master classes where writers share their experiences.
- b) To advance the public's appreciation of and engagement with the literary arts by producing an annual festival for readers and writers.
- c) To advance education in the field of literary arts by organizing and producing forums for the presentation of works of literature.

### Project Summary

#### *Victoria Festival of Authors 2025*

The tenth annual Victoria Festival of Authors (VFA), this event will foster engagement between the reading and writing public of Victoria, and regional and national authors. We will present a hybrid festival of ten in-person events featuring regional authors and four virtual events. Five of these in-person events will be livestreamed. This year, we will continue to increase the accessibility of the festival, eliminating barriers to participation for our artists and audience alike. We will provide closed captioning for in-person and virtual programming as with previous years, with ASL interpretation upon request. We will also offer sliding-scale admission for in-person evening events and all virtual programming. This sliding-scale admission will have a free ticket option.

### Comments on 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 four of all applications received at this granting intake. The recommendation is for the full amount of the grant request.

## 2025 January Project Grants – Recommendation Summary

Categories: OT = one-time project; SS = short series of events; EXT = extended programming

	Jurisdiction	Project Category	2025 Request	2025 Recommendation
<b>VICTORIA GUITAR SOCIETY</b>	Victoria	SS	7,000	5,300

**Funding History:** 2019 JanPG: \$4000; 2020 JanPG: \$4000; 2024 JanPG: \$0

### Mandate

The Victoria Guitar Society (VGS) mandate includes the following points:

- (a) Further support and develop classical guitar performance and pedagogy.
- (b) Support and promote the musical development of both amateur and student guitarists through workshops, master classes, and local and regional competitions; build community and friendship through social music events.
- (c) To make accessible the classical guitar to a wide audience through delivery outreach programs, in cooperation with educational institutions and care facilities.
- (d) Collaborate with other guitar organizations regionally, nationally, and internationally to organize and host festivals of guitar performance and competition.
- (e) Feature the creative work of Canadian local and national composers of new music for the guitar.
- (f) Provide venues for showcasing the creativity and craftsmanship of local luthiers.
- (g) Create public venues with other artists (e.g. dance, voice) to inform and increase community appreciation of the versatility of the guitar in various performance art forms.

### Project Summary

#### *VGS Concert Series 2025*

The Concert Series will take place from August 2025 to November 2025, and will present 4 concerts by 4 renowned classical guitarists at the Phillip T. Young Recital Hall in Victoria. This is the 9th edition of the concert series that have featured, over the years, local and international classical guitarists and gained popularity from classical music fans across BC who wait for it from one year to another. This year's programming will feature concerts by Emma Rush, Tariq Harb, Leonela Alejandro, and Christ Habib.

### Comments on Recommendation

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



## 2025 January Project Grants – Recommendation Summary

Categories: OT = one-time project; SS = short series of events; EXT = extended programming

	Jurisdiction	Project Category	2025 Request	2025 Recommendation
<b>VICTORIA SUMMER MUSIC FESTIVAL</b>	Victoria	EXT	4,000	3,200

**Funding History:** 2012 JanPG: \$3000; 2013 JanPG: \$2500; 2014 JanPG: \$2500; 2015 JanPG: \$3000; 2016 JanPG: \$3000; 2017 OP-A: \$0; 2017 JanPG: \$3500; 2018 JanPG: \$4000; 2019 JanPG: \$4250; 2020 JanPG: \$4000; 2022 JanPG: \$4000; 2023 JanPG: \$4150; 2024 JanPG: \$3000

### Mandate

The Victoria Summer Music Festival Society (VSMF) was formed in 1996 with the mandate to encourage an interest and appreciation of classical music, in particular, chamber music. The VSMF presents an annual summer music festival of 6 concerts that allows Greater Victoria residents to experience high quality chamber music performed by the best Canadian, international and local musicians. Key elements of the mandate include:

- give talented local musicians an opportunity to perform chamber music before appreciative local audiences,
- provide local audiences with an opportunity to hear some of the best national and international chamber music solists and groups who otherwise would not be heard in Victoria,
- give opportunities for young people to experience the joy of chamber music through a free and discounted ticket program,
- provide a welcoming environment for anyone in the community to share the joy of live chamber music concerts.

### Project Summary

#### *Victoria Summer Music Festival 2025*

The 2025 Festival will be its 29<sup>th</sup> anniversary and will consist of 6 public concerts held at the Phillip T. Young Recital Hall at the University of Victoria, including Canadian violinist, Jacques Forestier, the Pacifica Quartet, New Zealand violinist Helene Pohl and the cellist Rolf Gjelsten a native Victoria now based in New Zealand. The final concert will feature the Canadian pianist, Kevin Chen. The other 2 concerts have not yet been finalized but will present several local musicians of international renown.

### Comments on Recommendation

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

## 2025 January Project Grants – Recommendation Summary

Categories: OT = one-time project; SS = short series of events; EXT = extended programming

	Jurisdiction	Project Category	2025 Request	2025 Recommendation
<b>VOX HUMANA CHAMBER CHOIR SOCIETY</b>	Victoria	OT	7,500	6,000

**Funding History:** 2012 JanPG: \$3000; 2012 AprPG: \$4000; 2013 JanPG: \$5000; 2013 AprPG: \$4000; 2014 JanPG: \$0; 2014 AprPG: \$3000; 2015 JanPG: \$0; 2015 AprPG: \$3500; 2016 AprPG: \$1925; 2017 JanPG: \$2000; 2017 AprPG: \$0; 2018 JanPG: \$2000; 2019 JanPG: \$3500; 2019 AprPG: \$0; 2020 JanPG: \$2000

### Mandate

Vox Humana's mandate is:

- a) To advance the public's appreciation of the arts by providing high-quality public performances of choral works in/from a variety of musical genres; and providing a forum for the presentation of works of Canadian composers.
- b) To advance education by providing structured learning activities such as instructional rehearsal, and workshops about choral music, and by providing opportunities for students to publicly exhibit, performs, or develop their crafts or skills in conjunctions with these learning activities.

### Project Summary

#### *Vox in the Stars*

A unique presentation of choral music under the dome of the historic Plaskett Telescope on Observatory Hill in Saanich. The music presented is chosen to express or relate to the themes of the stars, skies, science, and nature, resonating with the venue. Much of the choral music is recently composed, including pieces by local and Canadian composers. A high-quality performance of significant and rarely performed choral works in a unique venue, drawing connections between art, science, and place.

### Comments on Recommendation

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

## 2025 January Project Grants – Recommendation Summary

Categories: OT = one-time project; SS = short series of events; EXT = extended programming

	Jurisdiction	Project Category	2025 Request	2025 Recommendation
<b>YELLOWHOUSE ART CENTRE SOCIETY</b>	SGI	EXT	12,000	9,600

**Funding History:** 2019 INC: \$5000; 2020 AprPG: \$7000; 2021 AprPG: \$0; 2022 JanPG: \$0; 2022 AprPG: \$5000; 2023 AprPG: \$10000; 2024 JanPG: \$7500

### Mandate

Our vision is to inspire creative interactions, to see the creative community in action. Our purpose is to help inspire and facilitate creativity in our community and beyond. This involves encouraging access to space and creating opportunities for innovative, interdisciplinary and collaborative creativity. We provide a safe space for free expression, materials and build skills towards facilitating a multitude of creative processes for everyone. We offer an introduction to arts through educational programming for all ages and help further explorations of artistic practices with ongoing courses, residencies and workshops. We support beginner, emerging and established artists to showcase their work through bi-weekly or monthly exhibitions and live performances. We promote connection, culture, stimulation and healing through art for all members and visitors of an isolated community. We support artistic appreciation and development in the region. We support environmental awareness and activities towards equity, decolonization and climate justice.

### Project Summary

#### *Yellowhouse Community Arts*

Yellowhouse Art Centre Society aims to continue offering its beloved year-round multidisciplinary arts programming to peoples of all ages and backgrounds by facilitating weekly ongoing art sessions with adults, kids and youth, one-off workshops, hosting eleven exhibitions featuring local and guest artists, ten weekend performances and a new day-long jazz festival, a theatre production of “The Great Bloom,” as well as the artist in residency program at the Yellowhouse venue during the period of April – December 2025.

### Comments on Recommendation

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



Making a difference...together

## REPORT TO ARTS COMMISSION MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26, 2025

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**SUBJECT**     **Inappropriate Behaviour Disclaimer Language**

### **ISSUE SUMMARY**

In the spirit of continuous improvement, staff are bringing forward disclaimer language to enhance safe and respectful workplaces for staff and the Arts Advisory Council.

### **BACKGROUND**

A safe and respectful workplace free from workplace violence is a requirement under CRD policy and the *Workers' Compensation Act*. Further, fostering an environment where we take all steps to reduce the risk of physical and verbal violence ensures that staff and volunteers can effectively discharge their duties in an effective way that fulfills the mission of the Arts and Culture Support Service. While the vast majority of grant applicants act in an appropriate way, a small number of them do not. One highly effective way to counteract these rare instances is to have disclaimer language that clearly states what constitutes inappropriate behaviour; that inappropriate behaviour is not tolerated; and that engaging in inappropriate behaviour could result in alterations to the applicants' ability to receive service.

Many other arts funders have similar disclaimer language already in place. Outlining what kinds of behaviour are not appropriate sets clear and healthy boundaries between funders and applicants that encourages constructive communication. The Canada Council for the Arts often has the most well-researched and best-articulated arts granting policies. Their language has been adapted as the proposed Inappropriate Behaviour disclaimer language for CRD Arts & Culture (see Appendix A for proposed Inappropriate Behaviour disclaimer language).

This disclaimer language has been reviewed by staff in CRD Workplace and Safety and Legal Services. It is aligned to corporate standards for similar policies in other service areas and it has been shown that such language does serve as an effective control to reduce the risk of verbal and/or physical violence through appropriate boundary setting without a meaningful reduction in service level to the overwhelming majority of applicants.

### **IMPLICATIONS**

An applicant who demonstrated inappropriate behaviour would receive a warning from staff and be referred to this disclaimer language. If an applicant engaged in a consistent pattern of inappropriate behaviour, it could affect the assessment of the level of professionalism of their organization, which is an important component in the evaluation of grant applications. In rare instances of extreme or long-standing inappropriate behaviour, staff would make a recommendation to the Arts Commission in a closed meeting that the applicant organization would not be eligible to apply for CRD Arts funding, either for a defined period of time or indefinitely, depending on the circumstance and behaviour involved.

Staff anticipate that simply having clear disclaimer language in place will deter inappropriate behaviour to a large extent, keeping in mind that such behaviour currently is only exhibited by a very small percentage of the many applicants who interact with CRD Arts and Culture.

**ALTERNATIVES**

*Alternative 1*

That the Inappropriate Behaviour disclaimer language be added to grant program guidelines upon launching each intake, included in all future grant notification letters and any relevant sections of the CRD website.

*Alternative 2*

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

**CONCLUSION**

In order to foster constructive communication, it is essential to have clear shared expectations around what is deemed inappropriate behaviour in the communication between grant applicants and arts funders. While instances of inappropriate behaviour by applicants are rare, having disclaimer language to set boundaries allows staff and the Arts Advisory Council to discharge their responsibilities in a workplace that is safe and respectful.

**RECOMMENDATION**

That the Inappropriate Behaviour disclaimer language be added to grant program guidelines upon launching each intake, included in all future grant notification letters and any relevant sections of the CRD website.

Submitted by:	Chris Gilpin, Manager, Arts & Culture Support Service
Concurrence:	Nelson Chan, MBA, FCPA, FCMA, Chief Financial Officer, GM Finance & IT

**ATTACHMENT**

Appendix A: Inappropriate Behaviour Disclaimer Language for CRD Arts & Culture

## **Appendix A: Inappropriate Behaviour Disclaimer Language for CRD Arts & Culture**

### **Inappropriate Behaviour**

In order to foster constructive communication and maintain a physically and psychologically safe workplace environment, inappropriate behaviour will not be tolerated. Specifically, CRD Arts and Culture does not tolerate any form of physical, verbal, or non-verbal abuse, harassment or intimidation of its staff, the Arts Advisory Council, or anyone working or volunteering with its department in any capacity. This includes all communication verbal and non-verbal by phone, by written word (including in grant applications), in person or online, of an abusive nature, including:

- Using language or a tone that is aggressive, antagonistic, and/or vulgar;
- Making direct or indirect threats;
- Making comments of a defamatory or derogatory nature; and
- Communicating with unreasonable or excessive frequency and/or at inappropriate times.

While rare, abusive, aggressive, threatening or vexatious conduct is unacceptable. In those instances, CRD staff may end or alter communication with any applicant.

Inappropriate behaviour could compromise the relationship of the applicant with CRD Arts & Culture and the chances of obtaining its support in the future.

January 24, 2025

Chris Gilpin, Manager - CRD Arts & Culture Support Service  
CRD Arts Advisory Council and Chair

Via email: [cgilpin@crd.bc.ca](mailto:cgilpin@crd.bc.ca)

Dear Chris, Arts Advisory Council and Chair

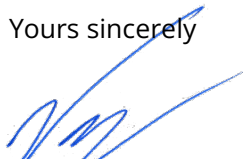
**Re: CRD 2025 Operating Grant & Early Payment Request**

I am writing on behalf of Pacific Opera Victoria's Board of Directors to thank you for your letter of January 23, 2025 in which you confirm our 2025 operating grant of \$259,150. This very significant and much welcomed increase in support is a crucial investment in our continued efforts to follow our strategic vision and to add more depth and diversity to our artistic planning and community engagement programs.

I confirm that Pacific Opera Victoria would welcome an early partial payment up to 50% of the 2025 operating grant.

Pacific Opera Victoria greatly appreciates the support and commitment of the CRD Arts Service, and thanks you for stewarding this important investment in the region's vibrant arts and cultural economy. We look forward to continuing to work with you to ensure the sustained growth and impact of the arts in our community.

Yours sincerely



Ian Rye  
Chief Executive Officer

Cc: Sameer Shah - Director of Finance, Pacific Opera Victoria [sameer@pacificopera.ca](mailto:sameer@pacificopera.ca)

Cc: Erin Sterling - Administrative Assistant, CRD Arts & Culture Support Service  
[esterling@crd.bc.ca](mailto:esterling@crd.bc.ca)

cc: CRD Arts Development - [artsdevelopment@crd.bc.ca](mailto:artsdevelopment@crd.bc.ca)



Dear CRD Arts Advisory Council and Arts Commission;

We just received the results from our 2025 CRD Operating Grant application and I wanted to thank you for the increase to our Operational funding. With expenses continuously increasing the extra money is truly appreciated.

This increased funding will assist Intrepid Theatre to continue to be a vital part of the region's arts scene and support our commitment to showcase bold theatre and fearless artists in the CRD.

Funding Intrepid Theatre assists not just Intrepid but also local residents, vendors, artists and other arts organizations.

Thank you again for reviewing our application and granting our request.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "JH", on a light blue background.

Julie Haddow  
Managing Director  
Intrepid Theatre





CRD Arts & Culture Support Service  
Attn: CRD Arts Advisory Council and CRD Arts Commission  
c/o Chris Gilpin, Manager, CRD Arts and Culture  
625 Fisgard St.  
Victoria, BC V9A 3C3

February 18, 2025

To members of the CRD Arts Advisory Council and CRD Arts Commission:

On behalf of Dance Victoria's staff and Board of Directors, please accept our gratitude for the CRD Arts & Culture Support Service's meaningful support of Dance Victoria, reflected in our increased multi-year operating grant. We appreciate this deepened investment, which ensures we can continue bringing diverse and innovative dance companies from all over the world to Victoria, while strengthening Dance Victoria's partnerships, engagement, and impact within the Capital Regional District.

To share one recent example of the impact to which the CRD's support contributes:

Dance Victoria co-commissioned B.C. Indigenous company Dancers of Damelahamid in a new work called *Raven Mother*, presented last month at the McPherson Playhouse. The artists' engagement in Victoria was a success from multiple perspectives. Dancers of Damelahamid performed to a sold-out audience at the McPherson Playhouse, with audience members sharing the following through a post-show survey:

"We loved the performance – such beautiful and thoughtful choreography and dancing; incredible masks, costumes, projections, and music/sound scape. Just an incredible evening. We also stayed for the talkback which added more context and was really appreciated. I am so glad that Dance Victoria brought this presentation to Victoria."

"Thank you so much, it was so powerful. I have Indigenous ancestry & the performance stayed with me for days and has never really left. The honouring of children, grandmothers and lineage was extraordinarily special."

"Thank you for all the hard work it must've taken in presenting this important show. I was especially impressed by all the protocols that were diligently followed including a welcome by local First Nations for the visiting troupe."

In preparation for the company's visit, Dance Victoria hired a local cultural liaison, Dr. Mique'l Dangeli, Associate Professor in the Department of Indigenous Arts, University of Victoria. With Dr. Dangeli's advisory support, Dance Victoria facilitated a traditional welcome ceremony led by the Lekwungen Singers & Dancers and hosted by the Victoria Native Friendship Centre. We also brought the artists into a local elementary school to lead a movement workshop grounded in



Indigenous dance practices. Through Dance Victoria's *Dance Is For Everyone* ticket access program, we were also able to welcome 25 Indigenous young people, families, and elders to the performance, free of charge, in partnership with The Literacy Circle and Victoria Native Friendship Centre.

*Raven Mother* has been a season highlight, resonating with a diversity of community members and strongly aligning with Dance Victoria's strategic objectives related to Reconciliation, access for young people and equity-deserving communities, and multiple entry points for all audiences to engage with dance.



Dancers of Damelahamid Artistic Director Margaret Grenier leads student workshop at Tillicum Elementary, Jan. 23, 2025.



Dancers of Damelahamid lead traditional welcome in McPherson Playhouse lobby, Jan. 24, 2025.



**DANCE**  
VICTORIA



Lekwungen Singers & Dancers, Dancers of Damelahamid, Dr. Mique'l Dangeli, Gillian Jones and DV supporter Lois McNabb, Jan. 24, 2025.

Please let me know if you have any questions, or if we can provide additional details or stories around the impact of the CRD's support. Above all, thank you for your thoughtful stewardship and care around this granting process. We are grateful for your partnership!

Yours sincerely,

Gillian Jones, Executive Director  
Dance Victoria

VICTORIA  SYMPHONY

Christian Kluxen, Music Director

February 21, 2025

Dear CRD Arts Commission and Arts Advisory Council,

It is with deep appreciation that the entire Victoria Symphony family sends our thanks for the recent operating grant of \$426,060 from the CRD Arts Development Service for the coming year. Your support is the largest single grant we receive, and as you know, it makes possible nearly 100 performances of extraordinary music each year by the amazing musicians of the Victoria Symphony, plus many outreach programs in the schools and beyond. We could not be what we are without the ongoing support of the CRD Arts Development Service.

Thank you for all of us at the Symphony, and for everyone in the Capital Regional District who benefits from the rich arts scene that you support so well. With your support, the Victoria Symphony is having one of the most successful years in our almost 84-year history. We look forward to demonstrating our dramatically growing impact in our next application.

As a way of saying thank you for your continued support and keeping you abreast of the positive change at the VS we would like to offer members of the Arts Advisory Council tickets to any regular season performance in our 85th Anniversary Season. Please contact Alexa D'Arcangelo, Patron Services Officer at [alexa@victoriasymphony.ca](mailto:alexa@victoriasymphony.ca) or by phone at 250.412.1978 to arrange access to these tickets.

With warmest regards,



Matthew White

CEO Victoria Symphony

# IMPULSE THEATRE

February 28, 2025

Attn: CRD Arts Commission

To members of the CRD Arts Commission;

We are writing to express our heartfelt gratitude for the continued support through the Operating Grant program.

We continue to grow and refine our role within the Capital Regional District, and this funding allows us to use our values to guide our relationships in both our artistic and community engagement programming. We are proud of what we have accomplished, and the CRD Arts Commission and the Arts Support Service have been integral in endorsing us as an emerging leader within our regional performing arts landscape.

Thank you again for your invaluable contribution to Impulse Theatre. We look forward to sharing our journey with you: all our successes, lessons, and curiosities.

Sincerely,



Jackie Adamthwaite, President



Andrew Barrett, Artistic Producer