

Additional Circulation:

N. Chan

R. Gale

A. Gibbs

C. Gilpin

S. Reid T. Robbins J. Verano

ARTS COMMISSION

Notice of Meeting on **Wednesday, May 21, 2025, at 4:00 p.m.**Room 488, 4th Floor, 625 Fisgard Street, Victoria, BC; and Electronic Participation

M. Alto (Chair) M. Brame S. Epp C. Plant C. Smart

J. Bateman P. Brent G. Lemon K. Roessingh

The public are welcome to attend Arts Commission meetings in-person. Delegations will have the option to participate electronically. Please complete the online application at www.crd.bc.ca/address no later than 4:30 pm two days before the meeting and staff will respond with details.

AGENDA

- 1. Territorial Acknowledgement
- 2. Approval of Agenda

Recommendation: That the agenda for the May 21, 2025 Arts Commission meeting be approved.

3. Adoption of Minutes of March 26, 2025

Recommendation: That the minutes of the Arts Commission meeting of March 26, 2025, be adopted.

- 4. Chair's Remarks
- 5. Presentations/Delegations
 - 5.1 Presentation: Greater Victoria Performing Arts Festival
- 6. Commission Business
 - 6.1 Arts Advisory Council Update
 - 6.1.1. Arts Advisory Council Chair's Report (verbal)
 - 6.1.2. Arts Advisory Council Minutes: May 13, 2025 for information
 - 6.1.3. Arts Advisory Council Activities by Council Summary: May 13, 2025 for information
 - 6.2. Manager's Report (verbal)
 - 6.2.1 Outreach Report (written)
 - 6.3 2025 Equity & Grow Forward Grant Recommendations

Recommendation: The Arts Advisory Council recommends to the Arts Commission: That the 2025 Equity & Grow Forward Grant recommendations be approved as presented.

Attachments: Staff Report: 2025 Equity & Grow Forward Grant Recommendations

Appendix A: 2025 Equity & Grow Forward Recommendations and Summaries

6.4 2025 IDEA Grant Recommendations

Recommendation: The Arts Advisory Council recommends to the Arts Commission:

That the 2025 IDEA Grant recommendations be approved as presented.

Attachments: Staff Report: 2025 IDEA Grant Recommendations

Appendix A: 2025 IDEA Grant Recommendations and Summaries

6.5 Operating Grant Program Review

Recommendation: The Arts Advisory Council recommends to the Arts Commission: That the changes to the Operating Grant program be approved as presented.

<u>Attachments:</u> Staff Report: Operating Grant Program Review

Appendix A: Operating Grant Guidelines – redlined

Appendix B: Strategic Plan Timeline

6.6 2024 Impact Report

Recommendation: The Arts Commission recommends to the CRD Board that staff distribute the *CRD Arts and Culture: 2024 Impact Report* virtually through the CRD website and as physical copies to all councils and electoral area directors to raise awareness about the positive impact of the Arts and Culture Support Service throughout the capital region.

Attachments: Staff Report: CRD Arts and Culture: 2024 Impact Report

Appendix A: CRD Arts and Culture: 2024 Impact Report

Appendix B: Presentation of 2024 Impact Report

Appendix C: List of 2024 Grant Recipients

7. New Business

8. Correspondence: Letter from Victoria Nikkei Cultural Society (April 2, 2025)

9. Adjournment

Next Meeting: June 25, 2025



Capital Regional District

625 Fisgard St. Victoria, BC V8W 1R7

Meeting Minutes

Arts Commission

Wednesday, March 26, 2025 4:00 PM

Room 488 625 Fisgard St.

Victoria, BC V8W 1R7

PRESENT

Members: M. Alto, J. Bateman (EP), A. Boardman, N. Chambers, S. Epp (EP), K. Roessingh, C. Smart

AAC Member: S. Reid (Chair)

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

EP – Electronic Participation

Regrets: P. Brent, G. Lemon

The meeting was called to order at 4:02.

1. Territorial Acknowledgement

Chair Alto provided a Territorial Acknowledgement, reminding us that throughout the capital region we do our work and raise our families and live our lives on the territories of varying Indigenous people; here in the city it is the Lək'wəŋən People, the Songhees and the Xwsepsum (Kosapsum – traditional name of the Esquimalt) Nations. We do our work mindful of the history of centuries of care, recognizing past effort, and thinking of present and future need. Hychka Siem.

2. Approval of Agenda

MOVED by Member Roessingh, SECONDED by Member Smart,
That the agenda for the March 26, 2025 Arts Commission meeting be
approved.

CARRIED

3. Adoption of Minutes

MOVED by Member Rosessingh, SECONDED by Member Boardman,
That the minutes of the Arts Commission meeting of January 22, 2025 be
adopted as circulated. CARRIED

4. Chair's Remarks

Chair Alto thanked Member Smart for chairing January's meeting in her absence.

5. Presentations/Delegations - none

6. Commission Business

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

S. Reid shared that the AAC met on March 11th and approved the recommendations for the January Project Grants, which are being brought before the Commission today. As part of the scheduled Operating Grants review, the AAC received a staff discussion paper on possible improvements for the Operating Grant program and had a fruitful discussion. Overall, the program is working really well but there are certain refinements that have been identified to make it more effective and accessible. The AAC will be making recommendations to the Arts Commission in future months with potential implementation for the fall intake. It will be a busy spring with three separate grant intakes to be evaluated.

6.1.2 Arts Advisory Council Minutes: March 11, 2025 Meeting - received for information

6.1.3 Arts Advisory Council Activities by Council Summary: March 11, 2025 – received for information

6.2 Manager's Report (verbal)

C. Gilpin shared that CRD Arts hosted information sessions for all project-based grant programs and they were well attended. Three grant intakes closed on March 13th, and 19 Equity, 19 Grow Forward, and 28 IDEA grant applications were received, including the first ever application from Highlands. Application numbers are significantly higher, showing great demand for CRD Arts granting programs, especially the brand new Grow Forward program, replacing Incubator. Funding recommendations from these three programs will come to the Arts Commission in May.

An update from View Royal – the deliberation of their Arts Service participation level is back on their docket for April 1st. Chair Alto and C. Gilpin made a presentation to their council back on October 1st, 2024. CRD staff have been in touch with the finance department at View Royal.

Highlight from the Outreach report: there is a date for the Arts Champion Summit. It will be November 4th at the Baumann Centre and the event could draw 80 -100 arts leaders and supporters. All are welcome to attend and there will be more details to come very soon.

C. Gilpin received an email from the Victoria Nikkei Cultural Society – they received a 2024 Equity grant of \$7,500 for the Japanese Garden Public Art Project at Esquimalt Gorge Park – according to their administrator, the CRD Arts endorsement has allowed them to leverage \$180,000 in additional funding.

6.2.1 Outreach Report (attached)

6.3 2025 January Project Grant Recommendations

C. Gilpin reported that there were 34 applications. A team of 3 assessors scored them according to the evaluation criteria, and then met in February to make funding recommendations. Out of the 34 applicants, 17 were recommended for funding, with more being funded at 100% of request amount than in previous intakes. Unsuccessful applicants will be notified in time to reapply at the April deadline should they wish to do so. When April Project Grant recommendations are brought to the Arts Commission, there will be a report on the number of organizations who reapplied after being unsuccessful in January.

In response to questions, C. Gilpin explained how feedback is given to applicants: notification letters are sent with some comments, and organizations are welcome to set up a phone call with him to receive more in-depth feedback. There is no appeal process. Granting programs are reviewed on a regular basis. This year there is a review of all the criteria for Operating Grants, and next year it will be project-based grants.

MOVED by Member Roessingh, SECONDED by Member Chambers,
That the 2025 January Project Grant Recommendations be approved as presented.

CARRIED

6.4 Inappropriate Behaviour Disclaimer Language

C. Gilpin explained that many arts funders already have this kind of language in place but CRD Arts did not. It has already been reviewed by CRD's Legal department and Workplace Health and Safety department. This kind of language has proven helpful as a deterrent.

MOVED by Member Roessingh, SECONDED by Member Boardman, 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.

CARRIED

7. New Business - none

8. Correspondence

Chair Alto suggested a motion to receive five thank you letters from grant recipients.

MOVED by Member Roessingh, SECONDED by Member Chambers,
That the Arts Commission receive letters of thanks from Pacific Opera Victoria,
Intrepid Theatre, Dance Victoria, Victoria Symphony, and Impulse Theatre.

CARRIED

9. Adjournment

MOVED by Member Roessingh SECONDED by Member Chambers,
That the March 26, 2025 Arts Commission meeting be adjourned at 4:40 pm.
CARRIED

Recorder



Capital Regional District

625 Fisgard St. Victoria, BC V8W 1R7

Meeting Minutes

Arts Advisory Council

Tuesday, May 13, 2025 5:00 PM Via Video Conference

PRESENT

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

J. Verano

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

Regrets: R. Gale, P. Tsolo

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 pm by Chair Reid.

1. Territorial Acknowledgement

Chair Reid offered a territorial acknowledgement, giving thanks for the stewardship of those peoples whose relationship with this land continues to this day.

2. Approval of Agenda

MOVED by R. Ditor, SECONDED by C. Haska,

That the agenda for the May 13, 2025 Arts Advisory Council meeting be approved.

CARRIED

3. Elections

3.1 Nominations and Election of Funding Chair

MOVED by S. Reid, SECONDED by R. Ditor,

That Joanna Verano be the interim Funding Chair until the end of June. CARRIED

4. Minutes

4.1 Arts Advisory Council Minutes of March 11, 2025

MOVED by R. Ditor, SECONDED by C. Haska,
That the March 11, 2025 minutes of the Arts Advisory Council be approved as presented.

CARRIED

4.2 Arts Commission Minutes of January 22, 2025

Received for information

E. Mushumanski joined the meeting at 5:06 pm

5. Chair's Report

Chair Reid commented on the wide variety of arts activities that members had enjoyed since the last meeting, locally and out of town. She invited members to discuss them after the meeting.

6. Manager's Report

C. Gilpin reminded the Council that there will be a celebration of life for Sue Donaldson at Gorge Park Pavilion from 1-3 pm on Friday, May 23^{rd} and all are welcome. Thank you to the adjudication teams for doing all the reading and scoring of a record number of applications. Good news – on April 1^{st} , the Town of View Royal considered a motion to decrease participation in the Arts Service, and Council voted 4 to 3 to affirm their current level of funding. Shout out to Ian Case and Brian Richmond for advocating for the Arts Service. The City of Langford's Arts & Culture master plan has been delayed a year – it will come out in Q1 of 2026. The City has hired a consultant and will engage residents in surveys and visioning exercises.

7. 2025 Grow Forward and Equity Grant Recommendations

R. Ditor shared that the meeting went well and there were some great projects being funded. C. Gilpin commented that, for the Grow Forward applications, projects with sectoral benefit scored much higher than projects focusing on one organization's capacity.

MOVED by J. Noomen, SECONDED by E. Mushumanski,

The Arts Advisory Council recommends to the Arts Commission:

- 1. That the 2025 Grow Forward Grant recommendations be approved as presented.
- 2. That the 2025 Equity Grant recommendations be approved as presented. CARRIED

8. 2025 IDEA Grant Recommendations

A. Reid shared that she really enjoyed her first time going through the process. They were able to fund the first-ever application from Highlands, as well as a new applicant from View Royal. C. Gilpin commented that there was a record high number of applications, and the overall quality of applications remained the same.

MOVED by R. Ditor, SECONDED by C. Haska,

The Arts Advisory Council recommends to the Arts Commission:

That the 2025 IDEA Grant recommendations be approved as presented.

CARRIED

9. Operating Grant Program Review

C Gilpin reminded the Council that this review began with a discussion paper brought to the last meeting, and that the comments from that meeting were incorporated into this staff report. Many of the suggestions originated with a consultation with the arts sector. Operating Grants had a big overhaul in 2023 when an EDI lens was applied to all granting programs. Even with suggested changes to the guidelines, new applicants are still required to speak to the Arts Manager for a discussion on eligibility and capacity. The proposed changes need to be approved by the Arts Commission by the end of June if they are to be implemented in the next intake.

MOVED by E. Mushumanski, SECONDED by J. Verano,
The Arts Advisory Council recommends to the Arts Commission:
That the improvements to the annual and multi-year streams of the Operating Grant program be approved as presented.

CARRIED

10. 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.

11. Correspondence

C. Gilpin noted that there was correspondence going to the Arts Commission from the Victoria Nikkei Cultural Society, who received an Equity grant of \$7,500 in 2024, and have leveraged it to receive a further \$185,000 in funding from multiple sources.

12. Adjournment

MOVED by E. Mushumanski, SECONDED by J. Noomen, That the Arts Advisory Council meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

The May 13, 2025 Arts Advisory Council meeting was adjourned at 5:41 pm.

 Chair		
Recorder		

Arts Advisory Council Meeting: Tuesday, May 13, 2025

Activities by Council (ABCs)

Local:

Able: An Immersive Art Exhibition

Art Gallery of Greater Victoria: Urbanite

Ballet Victoria: Carmina Burana

Belfry Theatre: If You Could Read My Mind: the songs of Gordon Lightfoot

The Climate Play (Spark Festival)

Behind the Moon

Bema Productions: Rite of Passage Bennet Bay Bistro: open mic night

Broken Rhythms: On Hold Champions of Magic

Civic Orchestra Victoria: Stage and Screen

Dance Victoria: Ballet BC (New Peña, New Magadan, PASSING)

on the nature of

Nocturna [Architecture of Insomnia] – Compañia Rafaela Carrasco

Hapax Theatre: play reading of Bella Luz by Alexandra Lainfiesta (UVic writing)

Intrepid Theatre: Children of God

The Knitting Pilgrim (Kirk Dunn), Mary Winspear Centre

Late Hours - Western Canada Tour w/ Karl Hirzer & Josué Valdepeñas

Pacific Opera: Rigoletto

Lucia Lucas recital (with UVic)

The Pandora Chorus in Concert

Planet Earth poetry reading

Ray Bonneville - Beacon Ridge Productions

Rockslide Gallery Open House

Susan Aglukark, Mary Winspear Centre

SNAFU Theatre: Epidermis Circus

St Michael's University School: Performing and Creative Arts Banquet

The Prom

Theatre Inconnu: Queen Maeve

Bacon

UVic Phoenix Theatre: Twelfth Night

Victoria On Stage: Legally Blonde the Musical

Victoria Symphony: Dancing Queen - The Music of ABBA

The Princess Bride in Concert

Online: Isklander

Out of town:

Vancouver: Nick Cave & the Bad Seeds

Toronto: The Runner, Harold Green Jewish Theatre Company & Human Cargo production

Seattle: Keith Haring: A Radiant Legacy

Tacoma: Charles Peterson's Nirvana: On Photography and Performance

Minneapolis: Kevin Kling and Victor Zupanc at the Park Square Theatre

New York: Stranger Things: The First Shadow

John Proctor is the Villain

Glenngary Glen Ross

The Picture of Dorian Gray



OUTREACH REPORT TO THE ARTS COMMISSION MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, MAY 21, 2025

The following is a short summary of the outreach initiatives undertaken since the last Arts Commission meeting on March 26th:

RAISE AWARENESS ABOUT THE VALUE OF THE ARTS

Implement Impact Story series

 Developed Impact stories for 2024 Impact Report and corresponding social media posts to be published as part of report launch and ongoing series

Collaborate with arts organizations on data sharing

 Advanced the regional impact data-sharing initiative with IT team to develop data visualization tool and strategy

Foster sectoral recognition and promotion

- Collaborated with artists and municipal staff to add three new artworks to Landmarks Public Art database, to be published pending image collection
 - "Interact" by Carole Sabiston (Victoria)
 - o "Chilco Tunnel Nature Mural" by Morgan Macaulay (View Royal)
 - o "Genera Helmcken Trestle Mural" by Collin Elder (View Royal)

PLAN AND HOST A BIENNIAL ARTS CHAMPIONS SUMMIT

Convene Arts Champions group and determine theme

• Potential themes identified, consultation with arts sector representatives in progress

Plan summit logistics, content and speakers

- Summit date, time, and venue confirmed:
 - o November 4th, 2025
 - 10:00 am 3:00 pm
 - Pacific Opera Victoria's Baumann Centre, Wingate Studio
- · Estimated costs acquired and booking agreement signed
- Save the dates to be sent to key guests in the coming week

EXPANDED PROMOTION OF GRANT INTAKES AND FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Host information sessions

- Promoted and hosted April Project Grant sessions; Presented slides via Zoom detailing eligibility, guidelines, budget tutorial, and application advice and 20-minute Q&A period
 - 25 registrants, 12 attendees
- Follow up email with slides in PDF format and relevant links sent to registrants

Extended outreach to underserved communities

- Conducted on-going scan for non-profits that might be eligible for CRD Arts Service grants in underserved communities in the capital region
- Engaged in direct outreach and education to specific non-profits identified by scan, securing the first-ever eligible applicant from the District of Highlands (included in 2025 IDEA Grant report).

PRODUCE ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT

Develop report

Final draft completed and ready for Arts Commission review

Publish & launch report

- Report launch and distribution plan in place
 - Includes targeted mailings, social media and e-newsletter promotion, media releases and online advertising
- Launch planned for second half of June after Board meeting on the 11th



REPORT TO ARTS ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING OF TUESDAY, MAY 13, 2025

SUBJECT 2025 Grow Forward and Equity Grant Recommendations

ISSUE SUMMARY

The adjudication committee for the 2025 Grow Forward and Equity Grants has completed its work and made its recommendations for approval by the Arts Advisory Council and Arts Commission.

BACKGROUND

As per Bylaw No. 2973, the Arts Advisory Council is responsible for adjudicating funding programs for the Arts and Culture Support Service. Section 5 of the Bylaw states: "The Council shall act as an arm's length adjudicating body for the Arts Development Funding Programs¹." The Arts Advisory Council fulfills this role through its adjudication committees, which are composed of Council members and, if necessary, external appointees to the adjudication committee who bring perspectives or expertise that meet certain adjudication needs.

Grow Forward Grants is a new pilot program and 2025 marked its first intake. Grow Forward provides funding to arts organizations for capacity-building, planning, mentorships, sectoral initiatives, and the process of investigating, identifying, planning and executing significant and strategic adaptations in their operations.

Nineteen applications were received at the inaugural intake of the Grow Forward grant program (see Table 1).

Table 1. Grow Forward Grant Program: Recent Funding History

Year	# eligible applications	# awards	Success Rate	Total Request	Total Awarded	Average Request	Average Award
2025	19	8	42%	\$83,030	\$30,000	\$4,370	\$3,750

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

Nineteen applications were received at the 2025 intake of the Equity Grants program as well as over \$170,000 in total requested funding, both of which are record highs (see Table 2).

Table 2. Equity Grant Program: Recent Funding History

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Year	# eligible applications	# awards	Success Rate	Total Request	Total Awarded	Average Request	Average Award
2023	14	8	57%	\$131,668	\$55,000	\$9,405	\$6,875
2024	15	10	67%	\$128,507	\$51,250	\$8,567	\$5,125
2025	19	7	37%	\$170,014	\$50,000	\$8,948	\$7,143

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

An adjudication committee of three Council members reviewed and scored applications in April 2025, meeting via videoconference, to consider 19 Grow Forward Grant applications and 19 Equity Grant applications. These application groups were not in competition with one another as they are separate grant programs. For Equity Grants, the adjudicators' scores were averaged in a comparative assessment of each organization's proposal and for Grow Forward Grants, the adjudicators provided a ranking of all applications by priority for funding and then these rankings were compiled and averaged. Applications were discussed to ensure the scores reflected the information provided. The adjudicators assessed and scored each of the applications using a matrix that reflects the desired outcomes of the programs in the areas of:

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

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

In Grow Forward Grants, eight applications are recommended for funding at various levels. In Equity Grants, seven applications are recommended for funding at various levels. In both cases, the highest-ranking applications would receive a greater proportion of their requested amount with some scaling back to applications that were ranked highly but not at the very top. By scaling award amounts back from the full amount of the applicant request, a greater number of projects can be activated with funding support from this program.

ALTERNATIVES

Alternative 1

The Arts Advisory Council recommends to the Arts Commission:

- 1. That the 2025 Grow Forward Grant recommendations be approved as presented.
- 2. That the 2025 Equity Grant recommendations be approved as presented.

Alternative 2

That this report be referred to staff for additional information.

IMPLICATIONS

Financial Implications

Ratification and approval of the recommendations will allocate \$50,000 to the 2025 Equity Grant program and \$30,000 to the 2025 Grow Forward Grant program for a total of \$80,000 (see Table 3 for all granting program budgets and allocations). In total, \$80,000 was budgeted for the 2025 Grow Forward and Equity granting programs and that exact amount has been allocated to applications across those two programs.

Tubic of opaute off Al	Table 6. Space on Arts Granting Badget for the GRB Arts and Galtare Support Service				
Granting Program	2025 Budget	2025 Allocated	2025 Paid Out		
Operating Grants	\$2,421,070	\$2,421,070	\$311,725		
Project Grants	\$280,000	\$140,000	\$140,000		
Equity Grants	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$0		
Grow Forward Grants	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$0		
IDEA Grants	\$33,000	\$33,000	\$0		
Total	\$2,814,070	\$2,674,070	\$451,725		

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

Equity and Grow Forward Grants will be paid out by the end of May 2025, pending approvals. The remaining portion of the Operating Grant funding will be paid out at the beginning of August 2025.

Service Delivery Implications

In October 2024, the Arts Commission approved the replacement of the Incubator grant program, which received between zero to three applications per year, with the Grow Forward grant program. Staff projected 12-15 applications in the pilot year of Grow Forward, and 19 were received, showing that this program is aligned to a community need. The large increase in applications has increased the administrative demands on staff and the capacity of the adjudicators (the Arts Advisory Council). This increased workload can be absorbed but may require some load leveling of granting intakes throughout the year.

A full review of the pilot version of the Grow Forward grant program, along with recommendations for the design of the full version, will be reviewed by the Arts Advisory Council in the coming months and presented to the Arts Commission in fall 2025.

CONCLUSION

The adjudication committee has assessed all applications received at the 2025 Grow Forward Grant and Equity Grant deadline. The fifteen projects recommended for grants will fulfil the desired purpose and outcomes of the Grow Forward Grants and Equity Grants programs.

RECOMMENDATION

The Arts Advisory Council recommends to the Arts Commission:

- 1. That the 2025 Grow Forward Grant recommendations be approved as presented.
- 2. That the 2025 Equity Grant recommendations be approved as presented.

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

ATTACHMENTS

Appendix A: 2025 Grow Forward Grant Recommendations and Summaries

Appendix B: 2025 Equity Grant Recommendations and Summaries

2025 Grow Forward Grants

	Non-profit Organization	Jurisdiction	Eligible Request	2025 Recom'd
1	Active/Passive Performance	SGI	5,000	0
2	Afro Latin Cultural Exchange	Victoria	5,000	5,000
3	Arts & Community Infrastructure (NEW)	Victoria	5,000	4,000
4	Amber Academy	Sooke	5,000	0
5	Bayanihan Cultural & Housing	Victoria	5,000	3,750
6	Blue Bridge Theatre	Victoria	5,000	0
7	Bounce Performance Works	Victoria	5,000	0
8	Canadian Heritage Arts	Victoria	4,980	0
9	Creative Momenta (NEW)	Victoria	5,000	5,000
10	Flamenco de la Isla	Victoria	5,000	0
11	Hispanic Film Society	View Royal	3,000	2,250
12	Other Guise Theatre Company	Victoria	5,000	0
13	Salty Broad Productions	Victoria	5,000	0
14	Sooke Arts Council	Sooke	2,000	0
15	Township Community Arts Council	Esquimalt	1,500	1,500
16	Vancouver Island Caribbean Hub	Victoria	5,000	5,000
17	Victoria Assn of Mask & Puppetry (NEW)	Esquimalt	5,000	0
18	Victoria Book Prizes	Victoria	2,000	0
19	Yellowhouse Art Centre	SGI	4,550	3,500

Total: 83,030 30,000

	Jurisdiction	2025	2025
ACTIVE PASSIVE		Request	Recommendation
PERFORMANCE SOCIETY	SGI	5,000	0

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

2024 JanPG: \$12250

Project Summary

Active/Passive Mentorship and Succession Plan: to continue funding the mentorship begun under their "Emerging Artist mentorship grant" as part of the goal to move toward paid arts administrative positions and full-time staff at the organization. Their mentee is local to Galiano and would become an Assistant Artistic Producer.

Comments on Recommendation

This application received a score in the lowest-ranked tier (9th- 19th) of all applications received at this granting intake. While there were some alignments to the goals of the program including planning, the work involved appears to be underway and could be seen as a necessary part of a regular planning process. The application could have benefited from more details on how the proposed personnel will be supported in the long term (a stated objective of the proposal) as this grant can only support a short-term, time-limited project. The application could be a better fit as a proposal to the Operating Grant program.

AFRO LATIN
CULTURAL EXCHANGE

Jurisdiction
Request
Recommendation
5,000
5,000

Funding History: 2020 JanPG: \$0; 2020 AprPG: \$5500; 2022 JanPG: \$5500;

2023 JanPG: \$8250; 2024 JanPG: \$8400

Project Summary

ALCES' Community Capacity Building Project: development and implementation of an external communications strategy with a focus on staff training and development of multilingual materials. They will hire consultants to develop a volunteer recruitment strategy, redesign their website, and explore social media engagement strategies. The Board will do extensive DEI training.

Comments on Recommendation

This application was in the top four ranking applications received at this granting intake. This application demonstrated a high degree of alignment to the goals and intended outcomes of the Grow Forward Grant program. The recommendation is for funding support at the full amount of the grant request.

	Jurisdiction	2025	2025
ARTS & COMMUNITY		Request	Recommendation
INFRASTRUCTURE	Victoria	5,000	4,000

Funding History: N/A

Project Summary

ArtSpace Future Forum: hosting a sector-wide knowledge-sharing event that will introduce a sectoral business model innovation: ArtSpace Futures: a feasibility study for a nonprofit landlord or cultural land trust model to address critical arts space challenges in the CRD. After the forum itself, they will invite key partners to provide input into the study, join the ACIF governance board, and a larger advisory board.

Comments on Recommendation

This application received a score in the second-ranked tier (5th- 8th) of all applications received at this granting intake. This application demonstrated a high degree of alignment to the goals and intended outcomes of the Grow Forward Grant program. The recommendation is for funding support at a scaled amount of grant request based on similar reductions to other applicants that scored in the same tier.

	Jurisdiction	2025	2025
AMBER ACADEMY		Request	Recommendation
YOUTH FINE ARTS	Sooke	5,000	0

Funding History: 2019 IDEA: 0; 2020 IDEA: 3000; 2023 IDEA: 3000

Project Summary

Web Development – Instructor's Portal: adding a new module to the website so that instructors can access student information, record attendance, create lesson plans, and generate progress reports. The grant will pay for a website developer to create this portal in an accessible and inclusive way.

Comments on Recommendation

This application received a score in the lowest-ranked tier (9th- 19th) of all applications received at this granting intake. Website upgrade projects were not viewed as a priority for funding support in this intake because this is a regular part of operations that no longer requires substantial investment and has limited impact. The application could have benefited from a different focus that had greater alignment to the goals and outcomes of the Grow Forward grant program.

	Jurisdiction	2025	2025
BAYANIHAN CULTURAL		Request	Recommendation
& HOUSING	Victoria	5,000	3,750

Funding History: 2021EQ: 5000; 2023EQ: 5000; 2024EQ: 5000

Project Summary

Empowering Bayanihan Creative Collective Artistic Leadership for a Sustainable Future: to retain a consultant who will create a business plan for BCC to enhance organizational structure, develop policies, ensure sustainability and create a long-term vision for the Collective. The consultant will assess the current structure, develop a strategic framework, create formal governance policies, a business plan, and a sustainability plan.

Comments on Recommendation

This application received a score in the second-ranked tier (5th- 8th) of all applications received at this granting intake. This application demonstrated a high degree of alignment to the goals and intended outcomes of the Grow Forward Grant program. The recommendation is for funding support at a scaled amount of grant request based on similar reductions to other applicants that scored in the same tier.

	Jurisdiction	2025	2025
BLUE BRIDGE		Request	Recommendation
THEATRE SOCIETY	Victoria	5,000	0
		,,,,,,,	

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

Project Summary

Exploring New Directions: funding a period of consultation with national and local arts management leaders to explore the implications of a partnership or amalgamation with Puente Theatre. Puente has agreed to also engage in a similar but separate process. This may also lay the groundwork for succession planning at Blue Bridge.

Comments on Recommendation

This application received a score in the lowest-ranked tier (9th- 19th) of all applications received at this granting intake. While there were some alignments to the goals of the program including planning and collaboration, the work involved appears to be underway and could be seen as a necessary part of a regular planning process. The application could have benefited from more details re: the return on investment as a way to grow the sector.

	Jurisdiction	2025	2025
BOUNCE PERFORMANCE		Request	Recommendation
WORKS SOCIETY	Victoria	5,000	0

Funding History: 2012 AprPG: 8000; 2013 AprPG: 7000; 2015 JanPG: 8000; 2016 JanPG: 8000;

2023 AprPG: 9000

Project Summary

Bounce Website Rebuild: hiring a web designer to create a new website that reflects their original vision as well as their future potential, attracting a diversity of artists and audience members. The new website will be the central hub for audience engagement, marketing, and outreach.

Comments on Recommendation

This application received a score in the lowest-ranked tier (9th- 19th) of all applications received at this granting intake. Website upgrade projects were not viewed as a priority for funding support in this intake because this is a regular part of operations that no longer requires substantial investment and has limited impact. The application could have benefited from a different focus that had greater alignment to the goals and outcomes of the Grow Forward grant program.

	Jurisdiction	2025	2025
CANADIAN HERITAGE		Request	Recommendation
ARTS	Victoria	4,980	0

Funding History: 2024 AprPG: 0

Project Summary

Capacity to expand business model: hiring a coordinator to consider how existing skills, frameworks and assets that exist through the operation of the Canadian College of Performing Arts could be adapted to serve the creative needs of our community as a whole, not just emerging artists looking to pursue a career in the performing arts. Initial research shows a gap in providing workshops and courses for the general community.

Comments on Recommendation

This application received a score in the lowest-ranked tier (9th- 19th) of all applications received at this granting intake. While there were some alignments to the goals of the program including organizational development, the proposal lacked detail and clear demonstration of need. The application could have benefited from more details re: why this project is needed now, sectoral impact, and how it would transform the organization moving forward.

	Jurisdiction	2025	2025
CREATIVE		Request	Recommendation
MOMENTA	Victoria	5,000	5,000

Funding History: N/A

Project Summary

Disability Arts Regional Gathering and Capacity-building: three projects are being supported: hosting an online gathering for disability arts leadership; receiving mentoring in bookkeeping; and researching, drafting and updating Board and personnel policies. The regional gathering is the a step toward the long-term goals of building complementary organizations and disability arts community.

Comments on Recommendation

This application was in the top four ranking applications received at this granting intake. This application demonstrated a high degree of alignment to the goals and intended outcomes of the Grow Forward Grant program. This is also a new organization incorporated within the past year and a new applicant to CRD arts granting programs whose growth will be greatly accelerated by this support. The recommendation is for funding support at the full amount of the grant request.

	Jurisdiction	2025	2025
FLAMENCO DE LA ISLA		Request	Recommendation
SOCIETY	Victoria	5,000	0

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

Project Summary

3 Year Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (JEDI) Strategic Plan: hiring a consultant to lead a holistic approach to JEDI planning including an audit of needs that leads to partnership development, membership expansion and succession planning. Flamenco originated with marginalized people, and any strategic plan has to be built on core JEDI values.

Comments on Recommendation

This application received a score in the lowest-ranked tier (9th- 19th) of all applications received at this granting intake. While there were some alignments to the goals of the program including planning, the work involved appears to be underway and could be seen as a necessary part of a regular strategic planning process. The application could have benefited from more details re: sectoral impact.

	Jurisdiction	2025	2025
HISPANIC FILM SOCIETY		Request	Recommendation
OF VICTORIA	View Royal	3,000	2,250

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

Project Summary

15th American and Spanish Film Week and Cultural Fair: investing in human capital. Funding will be used to compensate a select group of volunteers, and mentor them in the tasks and responsibilities, eventually leading to inviting them to join the Board of Directors.

Comments on Recommendation

This application received a score in the second-ranked tier (5th- 8th) of all applications received at this granting intake. This application demonstrated a high degree of alignment to the goals and intended outcomes of the Grow Forward Grant program. The recommendation is for funding support at a scaled amount of grant request based on similar reductions to other applicants that scored in the same tier.

	Jurisdiction	2025	2025
OTHER GUYS/GUISE		Request	Recommendation
THEATRE COMPANY	Victoria	5,000	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

Project Summary

Reimagined: a mentorship series: providing training for five producers/companies under the instruction of Matthew Payne. The 8-9 sessions would lead producers from conceptualizing and planning, to securing funding and a venue, to casting, to managing a production and post-production tasks.

Comments on Recommendation

This application received a score in the lowest-ranked tier (9th- 19th) of all applications received at this granting intake. While there were some alignments to the goals of the program, the application lacked a clear plan focused on capacity-building. The application could have benefited from a broader reach (relatively narrow project impact) and from more details on the participants in the training cohorts (identified emerging arts leaders) and on the program timeline.

	Jurisdiction	2025	2025
SALTY BROAD		Request	Recommendation
PRODUCTIONS	Victoria	5,000	0

Funding History: 2024 AprPG: 10,000

Project Summary

Financial Foundations: Building Sustainable Systems for Artistic Growth: implementing professional accounting systems, procedures, and training.

Comments on Recommendation

This application received a score in the lowest-ranked tier (9th- 19th) of all applications received at this granting intake. While there were some alignments to the goals of the program including organizational development, the proposal appeared to be focused on regular operational needs rather than innovation. The application could have benefited from more details on how the project provides sectoral benefit or transformation.

	Jurisdiction	2025	2025
SOOKE ARTS		Request	Recommendation
COUNCIL	Sooke	2,000	0

Funding History: 2020EQ: 0; 2020AprPG: 7000; 2023AprPG: 5000

Project Summary

Relationship Building Program: examining the support the Sooke Arts Council gives to the Sooke Philharmonic event "The Secret Garden Tour." Consultation and development work to determine collaborative responsibilities.

Comments on Recommendation

This application received a score in the lowest-ranked tier (9th- 19th) of all applications received at this granting intake. While there were some alignments to the goals of the program including sectoral collaboration, the application lacked enough information to fully understand and evaluate the proposed project. The application could have benefited from more details (timeline, roles, responsibilities, decision-making process) and more clarity on the specifics of the proposed project.

	Jurisdiction	2025	2025
TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY		Request	Recommendation
ARTS COUNCIL	Esquimalt	1,500	1,500

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

Project Summary

Bookkeeping reorganization: engage a professional bookkeeper to re-establish our bookkeeping system, catch up with backlog, and develop our capacity for maintaining it ourselves.

Comments on Recommendation

This application was in the top four ranking applications received at this granting intake. This application demonstrated a high degree of alignment to the goals and intended outcomes of the Grow Forward Grant program. The recommendation is for funding support at the full amount of the grant request.

	Jurisdiction	2025	2025
VANCOUVER ISLAND		Request	Recommendation
CARIBBEAN HUB	Victoria	5,000	5,000

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

Project Summary

Building Financial Resilience and Resource Sharing through Social Enterprise: shifting our business model to reduce reliance on traditional grants and create a self-sustaining revenue stream. Establish a financial model that can be shared with other organizations, fostering strategic partnerships and resource sharing.

Comments on Recommendation

This application was in the top four ranking applications received at this granting intake. This application demonstrated a high degree of alignment to the goals and intended outcomes of the Grow Forward Grant program. This is also a relatively new organization whose growth will be greatly accelerated by this support. The recommendation is for funding support at the full amount of the grant request.

	Jurisdiction	2025	2025
VICTORIA ASSOCIATION		Request	Recommendation
OF MASK & PUPPETRY	Esquimalt	5,000	0

Funding History: N/A

Project Summary

VAMP Strategic Planning: organize and participate in a strategic planning session to solidify the organization's vision, priorities, goals, and values.

Comments on Recommendation

This application received a score in the lowest-ranked tier (9th- 19th) of all applications received at this granting intake. While there were some alignments to the goals of the program including planning, the work involved appears to be underway and could be seen as a necessary part of a regular strategic planning process, especially of a new collective. The application could have benefited from more details on the sectoral impact or a track record of work in this new organization to grow forward with.

	Jurisdiction	2025	2025
VICTORIA BOOK PRIZE		Request	Recommendation
SOCIETY	Victoria	2,000	0

Funding History: N/A

Project Summary

Website Update: create a more informative, inviting website to encourage public access year-round.

Comments on Recommendation

This application received a score in the lowest-ranked tier (9th- 19th) of all applications received at this granting intake. Website upgrade projects were not viewed as a priority for funding support in this intake because this is a regular part of operations that no longer requires substantial investment and has limited impact. The application could have benefited from a different focus that had greater alignment to the goals and outcomes of the Grow Forward grant program.

	Jurisdiction	2025	2025
YELLOWHOUSE		Request	Recommendation
ART CENTRE SOCIETY	SGI	4,550	3,500

Funding History: 2019 INC: \$5000; 2020 AprPG: \$7000; 2021 AprPG: \$0; 2022 JanPG: \$0;

2022 AprPG: \$5000; 2023 AprPG: \$10000; 2024 JanPG: \$7500

Project Summary

Galiano Arts Alliance: current objectives are to design and create a brochure for all the arts offerings on the island, as well as hiring an access, diversity, inclusion and equity consultant.

Comments on Recommendation

This application received a score in the second-ranked tier (5th- 8th) of all applications received at this granting intake. This application demonstrated a high degree of alignment to the goals and intended outcomes of the Grow Forward Grant program. The recommendation is for funding support at a scaled amount of grant request based on similar reductions to other applicants that scored in the same tier.

2025 Equity Grants

	Non-profit Organization or Collective + Sponsor Society	Jurisdiction	Eligible Request	2025 Recom'd
1	Bayanihan Cultural & Housing	Victoria	10,000	0
2	BC Black History Awareness	Victoria	9,965	8,000
3	Bloom & Balance Arts Collective (NEW) + ArtisTREE Festival	Victoria	10,000	0
4	Creative Momenta (NEW)	Victoria	10,000	0
5	Gay4Nature Collective (NEW)+ Victoria Baroque	Victoria	10,000	8,000
6	Isabel Gonzalez Quiroz + Inter-Cultural Assn	Victoria	8,549	6,800
7	Jewish Community Centre of Victoria	Saanich	10,000	0
8	Kulea Culture Society (NEW)	Victoria	7,000	0
9	Monoceros Education Society	Saanich	10,000	0
10	Oasis Society	Victoria	10,000	0
11	RPG Nite Collective (NEW) + Integrate Art	Victoria	10,000	0
12	Tah'lum Indigenous Artists Collective	Victoria	10,000	8,400
13	Vancover Island Persons with HIV/AIDS (NEW)	Victoria	7,000	5,800
14	Victoria Chinatown Museum (NEW)	Victoria	10,000	0
15	Victoria Dragon Boat Festival	Victoria	10,000	0
16	Victoria Latin Dance (NEW)	Victoria	2,500	0
17	Victoria Pride Society	Victoria	5,000	5,000
18	Victoria Women's Transition House	Saanich	10,000	8,000
19	West Coast Reach Association	Victoria	10,000	0

Total: 170,014 50,000

BAYANIHAN CULTURAL	Jurisdiction	Community	2025 Request	2025 Recommendation
& HOUSING	Victoria	Racialized	10,000	0

Funding History: 2021: \$5000; 2023: \$5000; 2024: \$5000

Project: When Words Move

A contemporary dance theatre production that tells the story of Filipino migrants and their journey as newcomers in Canada.

Comments on Recommendation:

This application received a score in the lowest-ranked tier (8th-18th) of all applications received at this granting intake and scored below a satisfactory level in multiple assessment categories, including description of payment of the artists, accessibility, and partnerships or collaborations. It is not recommended for support at this time. The application could have benefited from more detailed information about how the society is looking to build partnerships and collaborations to broaden its community engagement and financial support.

	Jurisdiction	Community	2025	2025
BC BLACK HISTORY			Request	Recommendation
AWARENESS	Victoria	Racialized	9,965	8,000

Funding History: 2023: \$8000; 2024: 7500

Project: Black Storytellers

A two-part event showcasing Black artists and storytellers, including spoken word performers, writers, poets and musicians. Part 1 is an open mic night followed by two featured writers. Part 2 features an evening of sharing music from throughout the African diaspora.

Comments on Recommendation:

This application received a score in the second-ranked tier (2nd-7th) of all applications received at this granting intake. This application demonstrated a high degree of alignment to the goals and intended outcomes of the Equity Grant program. The recommendation is for funding support at a scaled amount of grant request based on similar reductions to other applicants that scored in the same tier.

BLOOM & BALANCE(new)	Jurisdiction	Community	2025	2025
Sponsored by			Request	Recommendation
ArtisTREE FESTIVAL	Victoria	Indigenous, Racialized	10,000	0

Funding History (Rose Cortez): 2022 EQ: 4500

Project: The Bloom & Balance Arts Collective Installation

An interactive experience mirroring the art of yoga, using recycled cedar blocks and contemplative movement.

Comments on Recommendation:

This application received a score in the lowest-ranked tier (8th-18th) of all applications received at this granting intake and scored below a satisfactory level in multiple assessment categories, including description of personnel, activities, development of the arts, benefits to the broader community, payment of artists, expected audience, accessibility, partnerships or collaborations and project budget evaluation. This application also had a general lack of clarity in all answers. It is not recommended for support at this time. The application could have benefited from more clarity, more detailed information about the activities of the project and specifics about how they contributed to arts in the region.

(new) CREATIVE MOMENTA	Jurisdiction	Community	2025 Request	2025 Recommendation
THEATRE SOCIETY	Victoria LGE	3TQ2+, Disability		0

Funding History: N/A

Project: Stitching Disabled Realms

A cohort of disabled artists will create a hybrid, multi-sensory art book. This pilot project focuses on the first chapter of the book, incorporating multiple forms of art and writing on fabric pages, along with an interactive online version.

Comments on Recommendation:

This application received a score in the lowest-ranked tier (8th-18th) of all applications received at this granting intake and scored below a satisfactory level in multiple assessment categories, including description of project, personnel, development of arts in the capital region, partnerships or collaborations and project budget evaluation. It is not recommended for support at this time. The application could have benefited from more detailed information about the plans to broaden the scope of impact, and more specifics on community engagement methods.

(new)	Jurisdiction	Community	2025	2025
GAY4NATURE			Request	Recommendation
COLLECTIVE	Victoria	LGBTQ2+	10,000	8,000

Funding History: N/A

Project: Queer Coffee Cantata – Southern Gulf Islands Tour

Featuring Johann Sebastian Bach's delightful Coffee Cantata (1730s), this queerified, cheeky and English-language adaptation project blends the beauty and humour of Bach's music with the cozy ambiance of Island café culture.

Comments on Recommendation:

This application received a score in the second-ranked tier (2nd-7th) of all applications received at this granting intake. This application demonstrated a high degree of alignment to the goals and intended outcomes of the Equity Grant program. The recommendation is for funding support at a scaled amount of grant request based on similar reductions to other applicants that scored in the same tier.

(new)
ISABEL GONZALEZ QUIROZ Jurisdiction Community 2025 2025

Sponsored by Request Recommendation

INTER-CULTURAL Victoria Racialized 8,549 6,800

ASSOCIATION

Funding History (of ICA): 2019 IDEA: \$2000; 2020 IDEA: \$3000

Project: Weaving Conversations

A series of weekly 3-hour workshops for migrant and refugee women aged 18 and over, with three objectives: teach a textile craft, provide space for conversations about the migrant experience, and integrate their experiences into a final exhibition.

Comments on Recommendation:

This application received a score in the second-ranked tier (2nd-7th) of all applications received at this granting intake. This application demonstrated a high degree of alignment to the goals and intended outcomes of the Equity Grant program. The recommendation is for funding support at a scaled amount of grant request based on similar reductions to other applicants that scored in the same tier.

	Jurisdiction	Community	2025	2025
JEWISH COMMUNITY			Request	Recommendation
CENTRE	Saanich	Racialized	10,000	0

Funding History: 2015 IDEA: 2000; 2016 IDEA: 2000; 2020 IDEA: 3000; 2021 IDEA: 2500;

2022 IDEA: 2000; 2023 IDEA: 3000; 2024 IDEA: 3000

Project: Victoria International Jewish Film Festival

A six-day film festival format, multicultural and expressly non-religious and non-political. Its goal is to build capacity and connections among communities in Victoria via cinema about Jewish themes.

Comments on Recommendation:

This application received a score in the lowest-ranked tier (8th-18th) of all applications received at this granting intake and scored below a satisfactory level in multiple assessment categories, including description of development of arts in the capital region, payment of artists, and partnerships or collaborations. It is not recommended for support at this time. The application could have benefited from more detailed information about the curation process and sponsorship recruitment.

(new) KULEA CULTURE	Jurisdiction Community	2025 Request	2025 Recommendation
SOCIETY	Victoria Racialized, Indigenous, Disability	7,000	0

Funding History: N/A

Project: Who is Your (S)hero?

Artists, performers, and community members share stories of influential women – historical figures, local changemakers, and unsung s(heroes) - through various artistic expressions, including spoken word, visual art, and music.

Comments on Recommendation:

This application received a score in the lowest-ranked tier (8th-18th) of all applications received at this granting intake and scored below a satisfactory level in multiple assessment categories, including description of personnel, activities, development of the arts, and payment of artists. It is not recommended for support at this time. The application could have benefited from more specifics on the artistic curation process and performers involved.

MONOCEROS EDUCATION	Jurisdiction	Community	2025 Request	2025 Recommendation
SOCIETY	Saanich L	GBTQ2+, Disability	10,000	0

Funding History: 2021: \$5000; 2022: \$5000; 2023: \$8000; 2024: \$7500

Project: Queer Crafternoon

Free, low-barrier, supportive crafting social events and workshops for the 2SLGBTAIQ+ community under the principles of accessibility, inclusivity and social justice. Past projects have included cross stitch, tie dye, embroidery, macrame, linocut, needle felting, and crochet.

Comments on Recommendation:

This application received a score in the lowest-ranked tier (8th-18th) of all applications received at this granting intake and scored below a satisfactory level in multiple assessment categories, including description of accessibility and partnerships or collaborations. It is not recommended for support at this time. The application could have benefited from more detailed information about the scope of the impact and more compelling evidence of development of the arts in the region.

OASIS SOCIETY	Jurisdiction	Community	2025 Request	2025 Recommendation
	Victoria	Indigenous, Disability	10,000	0

Funding History: 2018: 4000; 2021 : \$5000; 2022 : \$5000; 2024 : \$2500

Project: Carving Space

This wood carving program is for small groups of Indigenous persons experiencing multigenerational trauma. Participants learn historical teachings, engage in healing circles, design a panel, carve it, and paint it, within supportive community.

Comments on Recommendation:

This application received a score in the lowest-ranked tier (8th-18th) of all applications received at this granting intake and scored below a satisfactory level in multiple assessment categories, including description of accessibility and partnerships or collaborations. It is not recommended for support at this time. The application could have benefited from more detailed information about the scope of the impact and the approach to creating safety and accessibility.

RPG NITE (new)	Jurisdiction	Community	2025	2025
Sponsored by INTEGRATE ART	Victoria	LGBTQ2+, Disability	Request 10,000	Recommendation 0

Funding History (of Integrate Art):

APRPG 2013:4500; 2014: 5000; 2015: 3000; 2016: 5000; 2017: 2090; 2018: 5500;

2019: 5000; 2022: 0; 2023: 8000

JANPG 2021: 6000

As a sponsor: EQ2022: 4500; EQ2023: 8000

Project: Labs

Labs is designed to guide artists through the process of making their own RPG (role-playing game). The project involves 5 sessions to explore ideas, collaborate on design, and playtest creative RPGs that explore queer, trans, and disabled perspectives.

Comments on Recommendation:

This application received a score in the lowest-ranked tier (8th-18th) of all applications received at this granting intake and scored below a satisfactory level in description of benefits to the broader community and partnerships or collaborations. There was also concern about the capacity of the sponsoring organization to complete that role due to its own recent statements that it did not have that capacity. It is not recommended for support at this time. The application could have benefited from more detailed information about the scope of impact of the project and how it contributes to the development of arts in the region.

	Jurisdiction	Community	2025	2025
TAH'LUM INDIGENOUS			Request	Recommendation
ARTISTS COLLECTIVE	Victoria In	digenous, Racialized	10,000	8,400

Funding History: 2020 JANPG: 10,000; 2024EQ: 0

Project: Tah'lum Group Exhibition

A workshop series for Indigenous artists engaging with natural materials and traditional creation processes, conversations with elders, and facilitated connections with other indigenous artists, culminating in a group exhibition, community presentation, and sharing.

Comments on Recommendation:

This application received a score in the second-ranked tier (2nd-7th) of all applications received at this granting intake. This application demonstrated a high degree of alignment to the goals and intended outcomes of the Equity Grant program. The recommendation is for funding support at a scaled amount of grant request based on similar reductions to other applicants that scored in the same tier.

(NEW)	Jurisdiction	Community	2025	2025
VANCOUVER ISLAND			Request	Recommendation
PERSONS w/ HIV/AIDS	Victoria	LGBTQ2+, Disability	7,000	5,800

Funding History: N/A

Project: Verbatim Opera

This verbatim opera's text is composed from interviews with 120 people who lived through the first 15 years of the HIV/AIDS pandemic in BC. Grant funding with go to four local vocalists and one stage manager who will participate in a five-day workshop, leading to a presentation of the work in November at an evening of local performing arts affected by the impacts of HIV/AIDS.

Comments on Recommendation:

This application received a score in the second-ranked tier (2nd-7th) of all applications received at this granting intake. This application demonstrated a high degree of alignment to the goals and intended outcomes of the Equity Grant program. The recommendation is for funding support at a scaled amount of grant request based on similar reductions to other applicants that scored in the same tier.

(NEW) VICTORIA CHINATOWN	Jurisdiction	Community	2025 Request	2025 Recommendation
MUSEUM	Victoria	Racialized	10,000	0

Funding History: N/A

Project: Awakening Chinatown 2026

Free, family-friendly event celebrating Chinese culture through dance, music, song, traditional Lion dance, and martial arts performances. Performances are contemporary (Asian drag performance) and traditional. Chinese arts (eg calligraphy) and games are set up along the streets for trying.

Comments on Recommendation:

This application received a score in the lowest-ranked tier (8th-18th) of all applications received at this granting intake and scored below a satisfactory level in multiple assessment categories, including description of personnel, payment of artists, and accessibility. It is not recommended for support at this time. The application could have benefited from more detailed information about the event planners and artists involved.

	Jurisdiction	Community	2025	2025
VICTORIA DRAGON			Request	Recommendation
BOAT FESTIVAL	Victoria	Racialized	10,000	0

Funding History: 2023: 8000; 2024: 5200

Project: Canada Dry Dragon Boat Festival

Funding supports stage performances, roaming cultural programming, and demonstrations from cultural non-profit organizations during the racing festival.

Comments on Recommendation:

This application received a score in the lowest-ranked tier (8th-18th) of all applications received at this granting intake and scored below a satisfactory level in multiple assessment categories, including description of personnel, activities, development of the arts, payment of artists, benefits to community, accessibility and partnerships or collaborations. It is not recommended for support at this time. The application could have benefited from a more compelling approach to artistic curation and more evidence that the arts are a primary, rather than ancillary, focus of the event.

(NEW) VICTORIA LATIN	Jurisdiction	Community	2025 Request	2025 Recommendation
DANCE	Victoria	Racialized	2,500	0

Funding History: N/A

Project: Vibrant Victoria: Community, Connection and Culture

Free or low-cost dance events in Songhees Plaza hosted in summer on Sunday afternoons. Each event begins with a lesson to teach beginners.

Comments on Recommendation:

This application received a score in the lowest-ranked tier (8th-18th) of all applications received at this granting intake and scored below a satisfactory level in multiple assessment categories, including description of payment of artists, accessibility, and partnerships or collaborations. There was also a general lack of detailed information in the application (very short answers). It is not recommended for support at this time. The application could have benefited from more detailed information in all responses, especially in the development of arts and artists involved and more specifics about the planning involved.

VICTORIA PRIDE	Jurisdiction	Community	2025 Request	2025 Recommendation
SOCIETY	Victoria	LGBTQ2+, Racialized	5,000	5,000

Funding History: 2022: 5000

Project: Victoria Pride Week

Funding supports "Pride in the Word," Canada's largest queer literary event, taking place during pride week. The grant would also support the Main and Kids Stage at the Pride Festival on July 6th, showcasing BIPOC and 2SLGBTQIA+ performers, artists and musicians.

Comments on Recommendation:

This application was in the top ranking applications received at this granting intake. This application demonstrated a high degree of alignment to the goals and intended outcomes of the Equity Grant program. The recommendation is for funding support at the full amount of the grant request.

	Jurisdiction	Community	2025	2025
VICTORIA WOMEN'S			Request	Recommendation
TRANSITION HOUSE	Saanich (ir	ntersectional) Women	10,000	8,000

Funding History: 2016 IDEA; 2000; 2018 EQ: 5000; 2019 IDEA: 2000; 2020 IDEA: 3000;

Project: Healing Through the Arts

This program offers free access to structured art programs for clients aged 45 and above, healing from the devastating effects of intimate partner violence. Two 8-week sessions, each with 12 participants, will be open to transition house clients and members of the public.

Comments on Recommendation:

This application received a score in the second-ranked tier (2nd-7th) of all applications received at this granting intake. This application demonstrated a high degree of alignment to the goals and intended outcomes of the Equity Grant program. The recommendation is for funding support at a scaled amount of grant request based on similar reductions to other applicants that scored in the same tier.

WEST COAST REACH	Jurisdiction	Community	2025 Request	2025 Recommendation
ASSOCIATION	Victoria	Disability, Racialized	10,000	0

Funding History: 2018: 0; 2024: 3250

Project: Building Community, Celebrating Belonging Through the Performing Arts
Funding is sought for 1) weekly music and performance programs for those facing disability,
poverty, and homelessness, 2) music and ESL programs for refugee and new immigrant families,
and 3) the production of two arts performance shows celebrating the International Day of Persons
with Disabilities.

Comments on Recommendation:

This application received a score in the lowest-ranked tier (8th-18th) of all applications received at this granting intake and scored below a satisfactory level in description of honoraria and payment of artists. There was also a general lack of detailed information in the application (very short answers). It is not recommended for support at this time. The application could have benefited from more detailed information about the nature of the project, its impact, and greater clarity in the application overall.



REPORT TO ARTS ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING OF TUESDAY, MAY 13, 2025

SUBJECT 2025 IDEA Grant Recommendations

ISSUE SUMMARY

The adjudication committee for the 2025 IDEA Grant program has completed its work and made its recommendations for approval by the Arts Advisory Council and Arts Commission.

BACKGROUND

As per Bylaw No. 2973, the Arts Advisory Council is responsible for adjudicating funding programs for the Arts and Culture Support Service. Section 5 of the Bylaw states: "The Council shall act as an arm's length adjudicating body for the Arts Development Funding Programs¹." The Arts Advisory Council fulfills this role through its adjudication committees which are composed of Council members and, if necessary, external appointees to the adjudication committee who bring perspectives or expertise that meet certain adjudication needs.

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

29 eligible applications were received in the 2025 intake of the IDEA Grant program, which is the highest number of applications received since the IDEA grant program was reintroduced in 2019 (see Table 1).

Table 1. IDEA Grant Program: Recent Funding History

TUDIC 1. ID	EA Glailt 1 10g	raiii. recce	nt i ananig	i iiotoi y			
Year	# eligible applications	# awards	Success Rate	Total Request	Total Awarded	Average Request	Average Award
2020	18	13	72%	\$53,000	\$38,000	\$2,944	\$2,923
2021	18	13	72%	\$49,815	\$35,000	\$2,768	\$2,692
2022	17	16	94%	\$50,480	\$32,050	\$2,969	\$2,003
2023	13	11	85%	\$36,560	\$31,000	\$2,812	\$2,818
2024	20	15	75%	\$52,600	\$38,350	\$2,630	\$2,557
2025	29	16	55%	\$82,950	\$33,000	\$2,860	\$2,063

No applications were ruled ineligible by staff.

An adjudication committee of three Council members met in May 2025, via videoconference, to consider 29 eligible applications. The adjudicators' scores were averaged in a comparative assessment of each organization's proposal. Applications were discussed to ensure the scores reflected the information provided. The adjudicators assessed and scored each of the applications using a matrix that reflects the desired outcomes of the program in the areas of:

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

- Project description (clarity and impetus)
- Key personnel
- Fulfillment of the goals of the IDEA program
- Knowledge of the target audience
- Reasonableness of budget and projected expenses and revenues

The scoring methodology provided a comparative assessment of the merits of each proposal relative to the program's published goals and intended outcomes. Regional distribution of funding was also a key consideration in forming the recommendations.

Fourteen applications are recommended for funding at a scaled back amount in order to activate as many good projects as possible. Two applications are recommended for funding at the full amount of their request because the modest size of their request (less than \$2,000) made scaling back unworkable. Thirteen applications are not recommended for funding due to low scores and multiple other concerns (see Appendix A for details).

ALTERNATIVES

Alternative 1

The Arts Advisory Council recommends to the Arts Commission:

That the 2025 IDEA Grant recommendations be approved as presented.

Alternative 2

That this report be referred to staff for additional information.

IMPLICATIONS

Ratification and approval of the recommendations will allocate \$33,000 to the 2025 IDEA Grant program (see Table 3 for all granting program budgets and allocations).

In total, \$98,000 was budgeted for the 2025 Grow Forward, Equity, and IDEA granting programs and that exact amount has been allocated to applications across those three programs.

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

Granting Program	2025 Budget	2025 Allocated	2025 Paid Out
Operating Grants	\$2,421,070	\$2,421,070	\$311,725
Project Grants	\$280,000	\$140,000	\$140,000
Equity Grants	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$0
Grow Forward Grants	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$0
IDEA Grants	\$33,000	\$33,000	\$0
Total	\$2,814,070	\$2,674,070	\$451,725

IDEA Grants will be paid out by the end of May 2025, pending approvals. The remaining portion of the Operating Grant funding will be paid out at the beginning of August 2025.

CONCLUSION

The adjudication committee has assessed all eligible applications received at the 2025 IDEA Grant deadline. The 16 projects recommended for a grant will fulfil the desired purpose and outcomes of the IDEA Grant program.

RECOMMENDATION

The Arts Advisory Council recommends to the Arts Commission: That the 2025 IDEA Grant recommendations be approved as presented.

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

ATTACHMENT

Appendix A: 2025 IDEA Grant Recommendations and Summaries

2025 IDEA Grants

	Non-profit Organization	Jurisdiction	Eligible Request	2025 Recom'd
1	Amber Academy Youth Fine Arts Society	Sooke	3,000	2,500
2	BC Museums Association (NEW)	Victoria	3,000	2,000
3	Canadian International Tea Appreciation Society	Victoria	3,000	0
4	Cook Street Village Activity Centre Society (New Horizons)	Victoria	3,000	0
5	Cook Street Village Business Association	Victoria	3,000	0
6	Empowerkids Club (NEW)	Victoria	3,000	0
7	Fairfield Gonzales Community Association	Victoria	3,000	0
8	Friends of Bowker Creek Society	Victoria	2,250	0
9	Friends of Sooke Parks	Sooke	3,000	0
10	Greater Victoria Social Gathering Place Society	Victoria	2,500	1,750
11	Harmony Project Society of BC (Sooke)	Sooke	3,000	2,500
12	Highland Heritage Park Society (NEW)	Highlands	1,600	1,600
13	Island Sexual Health Society (NEW)	Victoria	3,000	2,250
14	James Bay New Horizons	Victoria	3,000	0
15	Jewish Community Centre of Victoria	Victoria	3,000	2,500
16	Moms Against Racism (Canada) (NEW)	Sooke	3,000	2,100
17	North Galiano Community Association (NEW)	SGI	3,000	0
18	Oak Bay Volunteer Services Society (NEW)	Oak Bay	3,000	2,000
19	Our Place Society	Victoria	3,000	2,000
20	Pandora Arts Collective Society	Victoria	3,000	2,100
21	Pender Island Pride Society (NEW)	SGI	3,000	2,100
22	Salish Sea Inter-Island Transportation Society	SGI	3,000	0
23	Sooke Region Historical Society	Sooke	1,600	1,600
24	Southern Gulf Islands Community Resource Centre Society	SGI	3,000	0
25	Victoria Downtown Residents Association	Victoria	3,000	2,000
26	Victoria Hospice	Victoria	3,000	2,000
27	Victoria Italian Assistance Centre	Victoria	3,000	0
28	Victoria West Community Association (NEW)	Victoria	3,000	0
29	View Royal Community Association (NEW)	View Royal	3,000	2,000
		Total:	79,950	33,000

	Jurisdiction	2025	2025	
AMBER ACADEMY		Request	Recommendation	
YOUTH FINE ARTS	Sooke	3,000	2,500	

Funding History: 2019 IDEA: 0; 2020 IDEA: 3000; 2023 IDEA: 3000

Project: 2026 Spring Musical Theatre Production

An after-school program teaching students about set design, costumes, sound, lighting, props, and performance, and then showcase these skills in a musical theatre production.

Comments on Recommendation:

This application received a score in the highest-ranked tier of applications received at this granting intake. It demonstrated a high degree of alignment to the goals and intended outcomes of the IDEA Grant program. The recommendation is for funding support at a scaled amount of grant request based on similar reductions to other applicants that scored in the same tier.

(NEW)	Jurisdiction	2025	2025
BC MUSEUMS		Request	Recommendation
ASSOCIATION	Victoria	3,000	2,000

Funding History: N/A

Project: BCMA Youth in Arts & Culture Regional Summit

One-day summit for 16 – 29 year-old intersectional youth from across Western Canada. Keynote speakers, workshops, discussions, and art-making – with a focus on Intersectional Joy.

Comments on Recommendation:

This application received a score in the highest-ranked tier of applications received at this granting intake. It demonstrated a high degree of alignment to the goals and intended outcomes of the IDEA Grant program. The recommendation is for funding support at a scaled amount of grant request based on similar reductions to other applicants that scored in the same tier.

	Jurisdiction	2025	2025
CANADIAN INTERNATIONAL		Request	Recommendation
TEA APPRECIATION SOCIETY	Victoria	3,000	0

Funding History: 2023 IDEA: 3000

Project: Victoria Tea Festival Revival

The International Tea Symposium is a free experience for in-person and online participants, serving as a platform for cultural performances, indigenous farming practices, ceramicist demonstrations, traditional textiles, and ceremonial tea rituals.

Comments on Recommendation:

This application received a score in the lower tier of all applications received at this granting intake and scored below a satisfactory level in the description of the artistic activities, key personnel, accessibility, benefits for audiences, benefits for equity-seeking communities and underrepresented arts and cultural practices, and project budget evaluation. It is not recommended for support at this time. The application could have benefited from more information about the artists involved or guiding principles for the artist selection and more evidence that the arts are a primary, rather than ancillary, focus of the event.

	Jurisdiction	2025	2025
COOK ST VILLAGE		Request	Recommendation
ACTIVITY CENTRE	Victoria	3,000	0

Funding History: 2024 IDEA: 1500

Project: The Writers Circle

Weekly writing program for seniors, leading up to a public reading, and the creation of an anthology of their work.

Comments on Recommendation:

This application received a score in the lower tier of all applications received at this granting intake and scored below a satisfactory level in the description of benefits for equity-seeking communities and underrepresented arts and cultural practices and the clarity of the project budget. It is not recommended for support at this time. The application could have benefited from more diverse sources of funding as well as more compelling evidence of artistic innovation.

	Jurisdiction	2025	2025
COOK ST VILLAGE		Request	Recommendation
BUSINESS ASSOCIATION	Victoria	3,000	0

Funding History: 2023 IDEA: 3000; 2024 IDEA: 2500

Project: The Village Block Party 2025

The 6th annual Block Party is a free all-ages local arts event, bringing local musicians and 160 local artisans, artists, and food vendors to Cook Street Village.

Comments on Recommendation:

This application received a score in the lower tier of all applications received at this granting intake and scored below a satisfactory level in the description of the artistic activities and benefits for equity-seeking communities and underrepresented arts and cultural practices. It is not recommended for support at this time. The application could have benefited from more information about the artists involved or guiding principles for the artist selection and more evidence that the arts are a primary, rather than ancillary, focus of the event.

(NEW) Jurisdiction 2025 2025
EMPOWERKIDS Request Recommendation
CLUB Victoria 3,000 0

Funding History: N/A

Project: ArtFusion: Kids and Young Artists Creating Together

UVic artists will serve as artistic mentors at art creation workshops for children, leading up to an art exhibition displayed at the Faculty of Fine Arts.

Comments on Recommendation:

This application received a score in the lower tier of all applications received at this granting intake and scored below a satisfactory level in the description of the artistic activities, key personnel, and project budget evaluation. It is not recommended for support at this time. The application could have benefited from more information in the notes section of the project budget to explain the numbers and more focus on artistic innovation/experimentation.

	Jurisdiction	2025	2025
FAIRFIELD GONZALES		Request	Recommendation
COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION	Victoria	3,000	0

Funding History: 2012 IDEA: 0; 2013 IDEA: 0

Project: Collaborative Community Storytelling

For FGCA's 50th Anniversary, they will invite people whose lives have been impacted by their mission to create a collaborative multi-media project that represents the organization, using video, live storytelling, visual art, etc. The results will be captured in a video to share with the wider community.

Comments on Recommendation:

This application received a score in the lower tier of all applications received at this granting intake and scored below a satisfactory level in the description of the artistic activities, key personnel, accessibility, benefits for audiences, benefits for equity-seeking communities and underrepresented arts and cultural practices, and project budget evaluation. This application also had a general lack of information (very short answers). It is not recommended for support at this time. The application could have benefited from more detailed responses to the questions in the application to enable a better understanding of the proposed project.

	Jurisdiction	2025	2025
FRIENDS OF BOWKER		Request	Recommendation
CREEK SOCIETY	Victoria	2,250	0

Funding History: 2019 IDEA: 3000; 2020 IDEA: 3000; 2021 IDEA: 3000; 2022 IDEA: 2000;

2023 IDEA: 1000; 2024 IDEA: 0

Project: Memory of Water video project

Creation of a 15-20 minute short film depicting a performative walking of buckets of water along the entire route of Bowker Creek, accompanied by narration of a poem which tells the story of the creek in first person.

Comments on Recommendation:

This application received a score in the lower tier of all applications received at this granting intake and scored below a satisfactory level in the description of activities, key personnel, and benefits for equity-seeking communities and underrepresented arts and cultural practices. It is not recommended for support at this time. The application could have benefited from a clearer distinction between the artistic focus of the activity versus its use as a promotional video.

	Jurisdiction	2025	2025
FRIENDS OF SOOKE		Request	Recommendation
PARKS	Sooke	3,000	0

Funding History: 2024 IDEA: 3000

Project: Spooky Pumpkin Walk and Solstice Lantern Walk

Two free all-ages events. In the first one, people bring their carved pumpkins the day after Hallowe'en to line a forest trail. The second event has lantern-making workshops leading up to a solstice night walk.

Comments on Recommendation:

This application received a score in the lower tier of all applications received at this granting intake and scored below a satisfactory level in the description of benefits for equity-seeking communities and underrepresented arts and cultural practices. It is not recommended for support at this time. The application could have benefited from more compelling evidence of development of arts and artists in the region.

	Jurisdiction	2025	2025
GREATER VICTORIA SOCIAL		Request	Recommendation
GATHERING PLACE SOCIETY	Victoria	2,500	1,750

Funding History: 2024 IDEA: 2920

Project: Art for Wellness

A 12-week workshop series for individuals facing mental health challenges, led by professional artists teaching painting, writing, collage, movement, poetry, and mixed media.

Comments on Recommendation:

This application received a score in the highest-ranked tier of applications received at this granting intake. It demonstrated a high degree of alignment to the goals and intended outcomes of the IDEA Grant program. The recommendation is for funding support at a scaled amount of grant request based on similar reductions to other applicants that scored in the same tier.

HARMONY PROJECT SOCIETY
OF BC (SOOKE)

Jurisdiction
Request
Recommendation
3,000
2,500

Funding History: 2019 IDEA: 2000; 2020 IDEA: 3000; 2021 IDEA: 0; 2023 IDEA: 3000;

2024 IDEA: 3000

Project: Harmony Project Sooke

Out-of-school music instruction and performance opportunities for children and youth.

Comments on Recommendation:

This application received a score in the highest-ranked tier of applications received at this granting intake. It demonstrated a high degree of alignment to the goals and intended outcomes of the IDEA Grant program. The recommendation is for funding support at a scaled amount of grant request based on similar reductions to other applicants that scored in the same tier.

(NEW)	Jurisdiction	2025	2025
HIGHLAND HERITAGE PARK		Request	Recommendation
SOCIETY	Highlands	1,600	1,600

Funding History: N/A

Project: Coffee House and Music Night

This is the first-ever CRD grant application by a Highlands organization, to support monthly gatherings at the Heritage Park where local artists are paid to perform.

Comments on Recommendation:

This application scored at the level required to fulfill the goals and intended outcomes of the IDEA Grant program. The recommendation is for funding support based on considerations related to regional distribution at an amount of their full request based on their placement in the overall ranking and modest request amount (less than \$2,000).

(NEW)	Jurisdiction	2025	2025
ISLAND SEXUAL HEALTH		Request	Recommendation
SOCIETY	Victoria	3,000	2,250

Funding History: N/A

Project: *Q-Joy*

A program for 2SLGBTQ+ youth to learn the history of art as resistance, explore the concept of queer joy, learn the process of digital production medium, and make postcard sized copies of their own collages or drawings.

Comments on Recommendation:

	Jurisdiction	2025	2025
JAMES BAY		Request	Recommendation
NEW HORIZONS	Victoria	3,000	0

Funding History: 2018 EQ: 0; 2019 IDEA: 2000

Project: Accentuate the Positive Seniors' Music Project

A biweekly gathering for seniors that includes a sing-along session and an instrumental play-along session, with guest musicians joining the facilitator.

Comments on Recommendation:

This application received a score in the lower tier of all applications received at this granting intake and scored below a satisfactory level in the description of fulfilling the purposes of the program and benefits for equity-seeking communities and underrepresented arts and cultural practices. It is not recommended for support at this time. The application could have benefited from clearer alignments to the Innovate/Develop/Experiment/Access purposes of this grant program.

	Jurisdiction	2025	2025
JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTRE		Request	Recommendation
OF VICTORIA	Victoria	3,000	2,500

Funding History: 2015 IDEA: 2000; 2016 IDEA: 2000; 2020 IDEA: 3000; 2021 IDEA: 2500;

2022 IDEA: 2000; 2023 IDEA: 3000; 2024 IDEA: 3000

Project: Victoria International Jewish Film Festival

11th annual non-religious and non-political film festival that curates films with Jewish and Jewish-adjacent cultural themes. Alongside the films there are live music performances, cuisine offerings, and guest speakers.

Comments on Recommendation:

(NEW) Jurisdiction 2025 2025

MOMS AGAINST RACISM Request Recommendation

(CANADA) Sooke 3,000 2,100

Funding History: N/A

Project: Healing Together: BIPOC Cohort 2026

An 8-week art therapy program, "Exploring BIPOC Identity Through Art, "will enable participants to explore their identity, engage in anti-racism work, and heal together.

Comments on Recommendation:

(NEW) NORTH GALIANO	Jurisdiction	2025 Request	2025 Recommendation
COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION	SGI	3,000	0

Funding History: N/A

Project: Community Mural

Using a local artist and community volunteers to create a mural on one of the shipping containers that they are installing as part of a new recreation facility.

Comments on Recommendation:

This application received a score in the lower tier of all applications received at this granting intake and scored below a satisfactory level in the description of the artistic activities and benefits for equity-seeking communities and underrepresented arts and cultural practices. This application also had a general lack of information (very short answers). It is not recommended for support at this time. The application could have benefited from more detailed responses to the questions in the application to enable a better understanding of the proposed project.

(NEW) Jurisdiction 2025 2025
OAK BAY VOLUNTEER Request Recommendation
SERVICES SOCIETY Oak Bay 3,000 2,000

Funding History: N/A

Project: Community Mural in Oak Bay

Using a local artist and community volunteer to create a mural on the OBVSS property.

Comments on Recommendation:

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

	Jurisdiction	2025	2025
OUR PLACE		Request	Recommendation
SOCIETY	Victoria	3,000	2,000

Funding History: 2014 IDEA: 2000; 2021 IDEA: 2940; 2022 IDEA: 0

Project: Music Therapy at New Roads Women's Therapeutic Recovery Community

An 8-week music therapy program that includes group and 1 on 1 sessions, focusing on rap music and lyric writing as well as lyric analysis, group listening and discussion.

Comments on Recommendation:

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

	Jurisdiction	2025	2025
PANDORA ARTS		Request	Recommendation
COLLECTIVE SOCIETY	Victoria	3,000	2,100

Funding History: 2012 IDEA: 1500; 2013 IDEA: 2000; 2014 IDEA: 2000; 2015 IDEA: 2000; 2016

IDEA: 2000; 2019 IDEA: 0

Project: Picturing Our Stories – Storying Our Pictures

PACS studio participants will merge their own self-directed artmaking with individualized guided writing toward a collective 'zine design.

Comments on Recommendation:

(NEW)	Jurisdiction	2025	2025
PENDER ISLAND PRIDE SOCIETY	SGI	Request 3,000	Recommendation 2,100
		,,,,,,,	,

Funding History: N/A

Project: Pender Island Pride Parade and Festival

Celebrating 2SLGBTQIA+ culture, identity and inclusion through live performances, art, community gatherings, and educational activities.

Comments on Recommendation:

Jurisdiction	2025	2025
	Request	Recommendation
SGI	3,000	0
		Request

Funding History: 2019 IDEA: 1000; 2020 IDEA: 3000; 2022 IDEA: 1000

Project: Tour des Iles Festival 2025

An annual event that fosters inter-island interaction and celebrates the unique art, culture, history, and way of life of the Southern Gulf Islands. The festival provides water transportation, allowing for participants to see local performers and musicians on each island.

Comments on Recommendation:

This application received a score in the lower tier of all applications received at this granting intake and scored below a satisfactory level in the description of the artistic activities and accessibility. It is not recommended for support at this time. The application could have benefited from more information about the artists involved or guiding principles for the artist selection.

	Jurisdiction	2025	2025
SOOKE REGION		Request	Recommendation
HISTORICAL SOCIETY	Sooke	1,600	1,600

Funding History: 2021 IDEA: 3000

Project: Sooke Spook

A Hallowe'en themed event at the Sooke Museum with actors demonstrating and storytelling about historic activities, costume parade, spooky stories and songs, and a choreographed zombie dance.

Comments on Recommendation:

This application received a score in the highest-ranked tier of applications received at this granting intake. It demonstrated a high degree of alignment to the goals and intended outcomes of the IDEA Grant program. The recommendation is for funding support at the full amount of grant request based on the modest request amount (less than \$2,000).

	Jurisdiction	2025	2025
SGI COMMUNITY RESOURCE		Request	Recommendation
CENTRE SOCIETY	SGI	3,000	0

Funding History: 2021 IDEA: 0; 2022 IDEA: 1500; 2023 IDEA: 3000

Project: The Crisp Festival

Pender Island's community festival aims to inspire environmental awareness and community wellbeing by showcasing musicians, poets, and visual artists, as well as providing hands-on art workshops, food-making demonstrations, and local artists displays.

Comments on Recommendation:

This application received a score in the lower tier of all applications received at this granting intake and scored below a satisfactory level in the description of benefits for equity-seeking communities and underrepresented arts and cultural practices. It is not recommended for support at this time. The application could have benefited from a clearer alignment to the development of arts and artists in the region as well as more alignment to the Innovate/Develop/Experiment/Access purposes of this grant program.

	Jurisdiction	2025	2025
VICTORIA DOWNTOWN		Request	Recommendation
RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION	Victoria	3,000	2,000

Funding History: 2023 IDEA: 3000, 2024 IDEA: 3000

Project: Music in the Parks

A series of free concerts in three public parks in downtown Victoria – each featuring live bicycle-powered performances by two local music acts, and a reading by a local poet.

Comments on Recommendation:

	Jurisdiction	2025	2025
VICTORIA HOSPICE		Request	Recommendation
SOCIETY	Victoria	3,000	2,000

Funding History: 2019 IDEA: 3000; 2020 IDEA: 3000; 2024 IDEA: 3000

Project: Music Therapy

Arts-based therapeutic services for patients in palliative care. This is the only regular therapy offered on the unit.

Comments on Recommendation:

	Jurisdiction	2025	2025
VICTORIA ITALIAN		Request	Recommendation
ASSISTANCE CENTRE	Victoria	3,000	0

Funding History: 2024 IDEA: 1480

Project: Victoria Italian Day

Event that celebrates and showcases Italian culture, featuring Italian musicians, culturally-identified activities and games, and Italian cuisine.

Comments on Recommendation:

This application received a score in the lower tier of all applications received at this granting intake and scored below a satisfactory level in the description of the artistic activities and benefits for equity-seeking communities and underrepresented arts and cultural practices. It is not recommended for support at this time. The application could have benefited from more information about the artists involved or guiding principles for the artist selection and clearer alignments to the Innovate/Develop/Experiment/Access purposes of this grant program.

(NEW) Jurisdiction 2025 2025
VICTORIA WEST Request Recommendation
COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION Victoria 3,000 0

Funding History: N/A

Project: Vic West Fest 2025

A community festival bringing together musicians, performers, artisans, and community organizations for a day of entertainment, creativity, and engagement.

Comments on Recommendation:

This application received a score in the lower tier of all applications received at this granting intake and scored below a satisfactory level in the description of the activities and benefits for equity-seeking communities and underrepresented arts and cultural practices. It is not recommended for support at this time. The application could have benefited from more detailed information about the nature of the event, including prospective performers (more info on the line up) and the artistic vision for the event (more info on guiding principles).

(NEW) Jurisdiction 2025 2025
VIEW ROYAL Request Recommendation
COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION View Royal 3,000 2,000

Funding History: N/A

Project: VRCA Community Concert Series

A quarterly concert series – each concert will feature artists spanning various genres, highlighting underrepresented artists and fostering an environment of cultural appreciation.

Comments on Recommendation:



REPORT TO ARTS ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING OF TUESDAY, MAY 13, 2025

SUBJECT Operating Grants Review

ISSUE SUMMARY

The implementation of the strategic plan for the Capital Regional District (CRD) Arts and Culture Support Service includes a review of the Operating Grant program in the first half of 2025. This review builds on the community feedback received during the extensive consultations in 2023 that informed the goals and actions of the 2024-27 Strategic Plan.

BACKGROUND

Operating funding from the CRD Arts & Culture Support Service supports non-profit organizations whose primary mandate is public programming in the arts. The purpose of Operating Grants is stable funding that will enable long-term planning by organizations with a proven track record of high-quality arts programming. The annual stream requires that organizations submit full applications and reports every year. The multi-year stream requires organizations submit a full application every three years and an interim report in the interim years.

In 2023, the arts community participated in several consultation activities as part of the strategic planning process and provided input on multiple topics, including identified challenges and opportunities in the Operating Grant program.

On March 11, 2025, the Arts Advisory Council (AAC) reviewed a discussion paper on the Operating Grant program. This review contextualized interest holder feedback in terms of their interests, referenced previous AAC discussions and recent program changes, and added an administrative lens that evaluated the feasibility of initiatives within current staffing capacity. The AAC conducted extensive deliberation and analysis of each proposed improvement within the discussion paper and provided feedback to staff on how the improvements should be modified to best align to community needs.

The results of this process are a program evaluation with proposed modifications to the Operating Grant program (Appendix A). These changes affect both annual (Appendix B) and multi-year (Appendix C) streams of the Operating Grant program.

ALTERNATIVES

Alternative 1

The Arts Advisory Council recommends to the Arts Commission:

That the modifications to the annual and multi-year streams of the Operating Grant program be approved as presented.

Alternative 2

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

IMPLICATIONS

Alignment with Board & Corporate Priorities

In the 2023-26 CRD Corporate Plan, initiative 10a-1 states the CRD will "[d]esign and implement a revised Arts & Culture Support Service Strategic Plan." The implementation of the strategic plan advances this board initiative.

Alignment with Existing Plans & Strategies

The implementation timeline complements the newly approved 2024-27 Strategic Plan for the Arts and Culture Support Service by sequencing the advancement of its 10 goals and 17 initiatives (Appendix D). Specifically, as part of strategic goal #8 "Reduce barriers to increase access to funding," one of the actions is to "[r]eview eligibility to annual and multi-year Operating Grants." The review of Operating Grants has been scheduled for the first half of 2025 so that it can be integrated into the Summer/Fall 2025 intake.

Financial Implications

The recommended improvements to the Operating Grant program do not require a lift to the budget of this granting program. They are focused on aligning the program to community needs. That being said, a major part of the feedback during the consultations was a desire by non-profit arts organizations in the capital region for higher funding levels to offset inflationary pressures. Considering the focus by the CRD Board on cost containment of the CRD budget, no major increases to this granting program are recommended at this time. That could change if current non-participating jurisdictions indicated a clear commitment to join the CRD Arts Service.

Service Delivery Implications

The intake of the Operating Grant Program is launched each year in the first week of July. In order for these improvements to the annual stream to be implemented for the 2025 intake, they would need to be approved by the Arts Commission before July 1, 2025. The launch of the next multi-year intake is scheduled for July 2027.

CONCLUSION

The Arts Commission continues to implement the actions and initiatives of the 2024-27 Strategic Plan for the Arts & Culture Support Service. The next part of this implementation is a full review of the Operating Grants program. The Arts Advisory Council has considered several additional modifications and proposed changes that will enhance the effectiveness of the program while expanding eligibility to more organizations across the region.

RECOMMENDATION

The Arts Advisory Council recommends to the Arts Commission:

That the modifications to the annual and multi-year streams of the Operating Grant program be approved as presented.

Submitted by: Chris Gilpin, MPA, Manager Arts & Culture

ATTACHMENTS

Appendix A: Operating Grants Program Evaluation and Recommended Improvements

Appendix B: Annual Operating Grants Program Guidelines (redlined version)
Appendix C: Multi-Year Operating Grants Program Guidelines (redlined version)

Appendix D: 2024-27 Strategic Plan Implementation Timeline

Appendix A: Operating Grant Program Evaluation



Topic: Operating Grant program review and recommendations

Service Area: Arts & Culture

Capital Regional District | May 2025

Executive Summary

As part of the implementation of the strategic plan, a report detailing a full review of the Operating Grant program is scheduled for the first half of 2025.

Overall, the major changes made to the Operating Grant program for the 2023 intake have been well-received. The current program is achieving its purpose. The goal of this review should be enhancement, not overhaul.

As part of the strategic planning process, the arts community participated in several consultation activities and provided input on changes they would like to see to the Operating Grant program. Staff have analyzed this input, contextualizing interest holder feedback in terms of their interests, and added an administrative lens that evaluates the feasibility of initiatives within current staffing capacity.

For consideration: for the 2025 intake (launching in July 2025), modify Operating Grants with revised eligibility criteria, application and assessment processes, and financial requirements as detailed below.

Summary of Current Service

Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Lens Resulted in Major Changes Implemented in 2023 Intake

In 2021-22, after an extensive consultation process, Operating Grants had an equity lens applied to it that changed most of the questions and grouped the assessment criteria into three categories (rather than scoring each question). Overall, these changes have been well received by the arts community who have completed the revised application form for the past three years. In fact, there has been almost zero negative feedback on the revamped application form and guidelines. This indicates that the next set of changes to Operating Grants should be on the level of refinement rather than overhaul.

Feedback from Strategic Planning Sessions with the Arts Community

In 2023, CRD Arts & Culture undertook an extensive public engagement process to solicit community input to the 2024-27 strategic plan. This included multiple focus groups with arts leaders, the 2023 Arts Champions Summit, an online survey, and a dedicated online engagement platform. Key feedback related to Operating Grants

included:

- The eligibility criteria threshold for Annual Operating Grants that organizational budgets must be at least \$90,000 is too high. It represents an unfair barrier to sustainable funding.
- The financial requirements should be more like BC Arts Council and Canada Council, which is based on previous grant amount not budget size (see below).
- Requiring audited financial statements to qualify for Multi-Year is too stringent. Review Engagement financial statements provide significant financial oversight and are more attainable for many Operating clients who meet all the other eligibility criteria.
- Not allowing board remuneration reflects an outdated and colonial perspective whereby board members
 were expected to be wealthy socialites and retirees who could easily afford to engage in this kind of
 volunteer activity. To broaden board member participation, some honoraria and accommodation
 expenses for board activities should be eligible.
- Grant process is relatively user-friendly and staff are approachable.

Recent Arts Commission Decisions

On November 22, 2023, the Arts Commission approved the implementation plan to accompany the 2024-27 Arts Service Strategic Plan. This schedules the Operating Grants review in H1 2025 with Arts Advisory Council and Arts Commission reviews in Q2 2025 and launch in July 2025 for the Operating Grants program connected to the 2026 budget, depending on the results of those reviews.

Financial Constraints

The 2025 budget for Operating Grants is \$2,421,000. If the number of participating jurisdictions remains the same, the budget has tended to grow at approximately 2-3%/year. Working within these budget projections is the most prudent course of action in the current fiscal environment where local governments are becoming increasingly concerned with tax efficiency and other strategic priorities.

If Langford joins the Arts Service in 2026, that could add approximately \$140,000 at Tier 2 (or \$420,000 at Tier 1) to the total budget, much of which could be allocated to Operating Grants. This would warrant further discussion about the possibility of other expansions to the Operating Grants programs including a stream to support non-profit arts service organizations and non-profit venue/studio operators who are currently not eligible because their mandate is to provide services to other arts groups (not to produce/present arts programming).

Recommended Modifications to Operating Grants

Both Annual and Multi-Year Streams

	Current	Proposed	Rationale
Eligibility:	None allowed of	Board members can	This creates more inclusive
board remuneration	any kind	receive compensation	boards that can recruit
		for board duties and	members from a wider variety
		accommodation costs	of backgrounds and aligns to
		(e.g. travel, childcare)	Projects Grants eligibility
Application process:	None allowed	Applicants allowed the	Enhances assessment of
supplementary materials		option to provide up to	artistic programming. Balances
		10 images with	application process which is
		explanatory captions	heavily text-based.
Application process:	CRD specific	Canada Council for the	Financial requirements should
financial requirements	based on budget	Arts (CCA) method	align to grant award. CCA
	size	based on size of past	method much more accepted
		grants	in arts community.
Assessment:	Consideration at	Update scoring matrix	This encourages more
Regional distribution	the ranking stage	to further value arts	Operating applications from
	with no defined	activation for all	across the capital region.
	process	communities across the	
		capital region	

Annual Stream Only

	Current	Proposed	Rationale
Eligibility:	At least one	At least three	Established track record of high-
grant history	project/equity grant	project/equity grants	quality programming and
		within past six years	successful grant-writing are
			essential qualifications.
Eligibility:	At least \$90,000	At least \$60,000	Provides more flexibility in
budget threshold	averaged over past	averaged over past	eligibility to annual operating
	three years	three years	grants for smaller organizations.
Eligibility:	At least two years	At least three years	Required to meet other existing
society history			requirements of minimum of three
			project/equity grants and three
			years of budget threshold (avg).

Multi-Year Stream Only

By adding more organizations to Multi-Year stream of Operating Grants, three objectives are achieved: a.) stable funding for long-term planning at organizations with established programming, b.) reduced administrative burden on Multi-Year clients, staff, and Arts Advisory Council, and c.) enhanced focus in the assessment process on annual clients, Notices of Significant Concern, and new applicants who are more fast-evolving and require greater examination. If these changes were made, 6 more Annual operating clients would have the option to apply to Multi-Year (who currently are ineligible).

	Current	Proposed	Rationale
Eligibility:	Audited financial	Review Engagement	Review engagement provides
financial statements	statements (highest	statements (2 nd	enough risk mitigation for
	standard)	highest standard) or	Multi-Year. Still involves an
		Audited statements	external accountant reviewing
			all society finances.
Eligibility:	At least \$90,000	At least \$120,000	Multi-Year stream is for larger
budget threshold	averaged over past	averaged over past	organizations with substantial
	three years	three years	staff and established
			programming
Eligibility:	At least five years	At least three years	This is sufficient to ensure that
# of years in operating			organizations are operating at
			a high level.

Next Steps / Timeline:

- H1 2025: Arts Advisory Council and Arts Commission reviews Operating Grants report
- July 2025: Launch Operating Grants program for 2026 with September deadline
- July-September: Promote Annual Operating Grants program highlighted revisions
- September 2025: Approve Arts Service budget
- November 2025: Operating Grants plenary adjudication
- July-September 2027: Promote Multi-Year Operating Grants program highlighted revisions

Comparison of Financial Requirements by Arts Funder

CRD Arts (current)

Annual Budget	Submit Financial Statements for the most recently completed financial year:	
>\$750,000	Audited	
\$300,000 - \$750,000	Review Engagement	
\$150,000 - \$300,000	Compilation Statements with a Notice to Reader	
<\$150,000	Self-generated Financial Statements	

Canada Council for the Arts

Previous Canada Council Grant Received	Type of Financial Statements Required:	
> \$250,000	Audited	
\$50,001 - \$249,999	Review Engagement	
\$0 to \$50,000	Notice to Reader/Compilation Engagement Report or internal prepared financial statements	

All current CRD operating clients easily meet the CCA financial statement requirements.



Capital Regional District Arts & Culture Support Service

ANNUAL Operating Grant Guidelines – Fall 2025

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The Operating Grant program of the CRD Arts & Culture Support Service recognizes the contribution that arts organizations make to the quality of life in the Capital Regional District, and their role in providing a wide range of arts activities for the benefit of citizens and visitors.

Operating assistance acknowledges that, for the arts to remain accessible to the region's audiences and participants, they require an investment of public sector funds. Through an investment in our arts organizations and institutions, the CRD is contributing to the development of a healthy, diverse, and vibrant community.

CRD operating funding provides support to arts organizations whose primary mandate is public programming in the arts. The purpose of Operating Grants is stable funding that will enable long-term planning by organizations with a proven track record of high-quality arts programming.

GENERAL ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Applicant organizations must meet the following criteria:

- Have public programming in the arts as their primary mandate and purpose and have their administration and public programming based in eligible regions of the CRD.¹
- Be non-profit societies and have been registered in British Columbia for at least three (3) two (2) consecutive years immediately preceding the application deadline.
- Have actively presented public arts programming in the CRD for the three (3) two (2) consecutive years immediately preceding the application deadline.
- First-time applicants must have received three one or more CRD Project Grant awards or Equity Grant awards within the six years prior to the application deadline.
- Have an active Board of Directors. Voting members of the Board may receive compensation for
 expenses directly related to Board duties (travel, childcare, etc) but not honoraria for participation or
 fees for services must not receive remuneration of any kind from the applicant organization.
- Have operating budgets that average at least \$90,000 \$60,000 over the past three (3) in the year of application and the two (2) years immediately preceding application, exclusive of capital projects or inkind contributions. (Organizations with operating budgets of less than \$90,000 \$60,000 may be eligible for funding through the Project Grants program.)
- Can provide, with their applications, the appropriate financial statements as outlined in the "Financial Statement Requirements" section.
- Are in good financial health and are ineligible if in arrears with any local authority, are bankrupt, seeking creditor protection, are insolvent, or under court supervision of any kind.

New applicants to the Annual Operating Grant program must:

Contact the CRD Arts & Culture Support Service (the Arts Service) office at least two weeks before the application deadline to arrange a pre-eligibility review discussion.

¹ As of June 2024, the municipalities that contribute to the Capital Regional District Arts & Culture Support Service are: Victoria, Saanich, Oak Bay, Esquimalt, View Royal, Highlands, Metchosin, Sooke and Southern Gulf Islands.

INELIGIBLE ORGANIZATIONS AND ACTIVITIES

Given budget limitations, some activities are beyond the scope of this grant program, regardless of their merit. Operating Grants are not available for programs of civic departments or branches (e.g., libraries or community centres), nor are they intended for the activities of clubs or for organizations whose primary mandate involves social service, religion, sports, or educational activities.

Training and educational organizations are not eligible unless they are determined to have public programming of regional significance. An organization will be determined to be primarily concerned with training or education if the majority of its earned revenue is derived from tuitions or other payments for educational or training services.

An arts training organization may be eligible for funding for its public programming that is not related to the fulfillment of prescribed curriculum requirements or other educational activities. Recitals, exhibitions, and other presentations intended to present or showcase the ongoing or final results of courses, classes, and workshops are ineligible for funding in this program.

In addition, the following **do not** qualify for Operating Grants:

- contests and competitions
- capital projects
- tourism promotion
- scholarships

COMMITMENT TO EQUITY

The Arts Service is committed to supporting the development of equity in the region's arts sector. We are taking action to embed values of equity, diversity, inclusion, access, and cultural self-determination into our processes and policies, understanding that these concepts are not a static set of goals, but rather an evolving journey.

The aim of our commitment and these actions is to support the full diversity of artistic and cultural expression in the region. Recognizing that persistent and systemic discrimination has prevented equity-seeking groups from accessing resources, we continue to expand access and remove barriers to our funding. Equity-seeking groups include, but are not limited to, First Nations, Inuit and Métis people, those who are racialized, Deaf people, LGBTQ2+ people, and those with disabilities.

PROCESS SUPPORT

Applicants who are Deaf, hard of hearing or have a disability and need support to complete their grant applications can apply for funds to cover the costs of assistance from Service Providers. Up to \$500 is available for each eligible applicant in a calendar year.

Grant recipients who need to develop a Final Report verbally or in Sign language, or need other supports, can request this through the Arts Service. The requirement for this support must be directly related to being Deaf or having a disability. This support is a contribution towards the costs of transcription services or Sign language interpretation, to enable the recipients to submit their report in written English.

Requests for process support, for either grant applications or final reports, require approval from the Arts Service. Please contact our office at least three weeks before the deadline to determine eligibility, request support funding, and to review the process for payment to be made to your Service Provider.

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

The CRD Arts Advisory Council assesses Operating Grant application responses grouped into three assessment criteria categories. Organizations must demonstrate the following in their Operating Grant applications:

Artistic Contribution and Significance (33% of total score)

- An artistic program which reflects and fulfills the organization's mandate.
- A sound and clearly articulated artistic plan and a demonstrated ability to fulfill that plan.
- Overall contribution to the development of the art form, artists, other practitioners and broader artistic practice, in the context of a culturally diverse region.
- Activation of arts initiatives in underserved areas of the capital region.

Organizational Capacity and Governance (33% of total score)

- Evidence of a clear mandate, competent administration, sufficient organizational capacity, a functional Board and administrative and governance structures appropriate to the organization (e.g., planning, development, marketing, financial management, Board development).
- Commitment to the development of B.C. artists and cultural practitioners, including the level of fees and other compensation to artists and cultural workers.
- Evidence of a diversified revenue base, including earned revenue, funding from other levels of government, and support from the private sector through fundraising, donations, sponsorships, or memberships.

Community Impact and Involvement (33% of total score)

- A contribution to communities that are being engaged which may include outreach, audience development, educational activities for the public, economic and social impact.
- The diversity, depth, and reciprocity of relationships with communities that are being engaged.
- Inclusion of cultural protocols and practices, where appropriate.
- Relationship and connections with underserved areas of the capital region.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT REQUIREMENTS

An organization requesting operating funding from the CRD must submit one of the following:

- a) Audited Financial Statements for the most recently completed fiscal year, where the previous year's grant from CRD Arts & Culture Support Service is \$250,000 or more total operating budget exceeds \$750,000.
- b) Review Engagement Financial Statements for the most recently completed fiscal year, where the previous year's grant from CRD Arts & Culture Support Service is \$50,001 \$249,999 total operating budget exceeds \$300,000 but is less than \$750,000.
- c) Compilation Financial Statements with Notice to Reader (NTR) for the most recently completed fiscal year, where the previous year's grant from CRD Arts & Culture Support Service is \$50,000 total operating budget is \$300,000 or less.

The Compilation Financial Statements may be prepared by a qualified person either internal or external to the organization, such as an accountant, a bookkeeper, or the Board Treasurer. The Statements must include a balance sheet, statement of revenues and expenses, notes relating to the financial statements where appropriate, and show comparative columns for the most recently completed year and previous year, on the same page.

The **NTR** that accompanies the financial statements states the nature of the assignment, the scope and limitations, a caution to readers, who prepared the report, and the date of preparation. It is your responsibility to ensure the appropriate financial statements are submitted. Applications without appropriate financial statements are considered incomplete. Contact Arts Service staff if you have questions.

<u>COMMUNICATIONS – Images & Quotes</u>

Attach 2 - 6 print-quality digital photos from last year's programming. Include artistic and photo credits for each image using the Communications Form. The images may be used in CRD Impact Reports and/or may be used on social media, on the CRD website, in presentations, and in other reporting and promotional materials, to represent arts activities developed with support from CRD funding. Please confirm necessary consent before submitting images. Please provide up to three quotes, from either participants or staff, demonstrating the impact of your activities.

ADJUDICATION PROCESS

Application Deadline:

A digital copy of the completed application and accompanying documents must be received by 4:30 pm on the published deadline. If a cover letter is included, it will be read by staff, but not included in the adjudication package. The deadline is firm and late applications will not be accepted. Please check the CRD website for current information.

Acceptance of an application to the Operating Grant program does not guarantee funding nor does previous funding guarantee subsequent funding under this program.

Review Process:

Arts Service staff review applications for completeness and may request further information or clarification as necessary.

Assessment and Notification:

The CRD Arts Advisory Council adjudicates all eligible applications and makes recommendations to the Arts Commission for approval. The Arts Commission's decision is final and cannot be appealed. Applicant organizations are informed of the results in January, following the deadline.

NOTICE OF SIGNIFICANT CONCERN

A Notice of Significant Concern (NOSC) will be issued to any organization assessed as having significant concerns in the areas of Artistic Contribution and Significance, Organizational Capacity and Governance, or Community Impact and Involvement. The NOSC will be included with an applicant's grant result and will clearly state the area(s) of concern that require remediation. Receipt of an NOSC requires the applicant to provide a separate report on all remediation activity (steps to resolve and the outcome) to be included with the following year's application. If an applicant does not adequately address the issues noted in their NOSC with their next Operating Grant application, funding may be reduced or withdrawn or conditions may be attached to future program eligibility.

Also, if at any time an applicant demonstrates less than exemplary behaviour in the public sphere, a meeting of the adjudication committee may be convened and the applicant's funding may be suspended or revoked.

PAYMENT OF GRANTS

All funding recommendations are conditional upon approval of the Arts Service annual budget by the CRD Board. Upon budget approval, payments are made August 1st in the year following the deadline. In some cases, a partial early payment is possible in April. Contact Arts Service staff for details.

CHANGES TO FUNDING

All funding recommendations in this program are dependent upon the annual approval of the Arts & Culture Service budget by the CRD Board. Increases or decreases to the Arts & Culture Service budget will require a review of recommendations and may result in changes to grant payments.

Should an organization undergo any significant changes, fail to meet expectations, or fail to submit the required reports, the funding level may change.

CONDITIONS OF FUNDING

CRD funding support must be acknowledged in media, verbally at events, on websites and in print. Information describing how to acknowledge the CRD Arts & Culture Support Service is available at crd.bc.ca/service/arts-funding. This information, as well as CRD logos, may be requested through the Arts & Culture Community Outreach Coordinator at 250.360.3007.

Grant funds must be applied to operating expenses, not used to reduce, or eliminate accumulated deficits. Activities cannot be funded retroactively.

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

SUBMITTING AN APPLICATION

No late applications accepted. Digital files of the full application must be received by 4:30 pm on the published deadline. You will receive confirmation of receipt of your application within two business days.

What to Submit:

Completed Part A – Applicant info &	answers to questions (Word Doc not pdf)		
Completed Part B – Budget (Excel not pdf)			
Completed Part C – Statistics & Activity Lists (Excel not pdf)			
List of current Board of Directors with Board positions, start dates, and term lengths			
List of current Staff with name and position			
Financial Statements (as per Financial Statement Requirements)			
Communications Form	□ Images and Quotes (not for assessment, only reporting)		

□ Optional: up to 10 images in pdf with explanatory captions – only for use in assessment as supplementary

How to submit:

application materials

- 1. Complete all materials listed in 'What to Submit'
- 2. Save a copy of Parts A, B, & C to your computer
- 3. Email 'What to Submit' documents and submit by the published deadline to: ApplytoArts@crd.bc.ca

For more information:

Telephone: 250-360-3215 Email: artsdevelopment@crd.bc.ca

Note: The information provided in grant applications is subject to, and protected by, the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.



Capital Regional District Arts & Culture Support Service

MULTI-YEAR Operating Grant Guidelines – Fall 2025

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The Operating Grant program of the CRD Arts & Culture Support Service recognizes the contribution that arts organizations make to the quality of life in the Capital Regional District, and their role in providing a wide range of arts activities for the benefit of citizens and visitors.

Operating assistance acknowledges that, for the arts to remain accessible to the region's audiences and participants, they require an investment of public sector funds. Through an investment in our arts organizations and institutions, the CRD is contributing to the development of a healthy, diverse, and vibrant community.

CRD operating funding provides support to arts organizations whose primary mandate is public programming in the arts. The purpose of Operating Grants is stable funding that will enable long-term planning by organizations with a proven track record of high-quality arts programming.

GENERAL ELIGIBLITY REQUIREMENTS

Application to Multi-Year funding is by invitation only for established organizations that have received CRD Operating funding annually for a minimum of three (3) five (5) consecutive years prior to application.

Applicant organizations must meet the following criteria:

- Have public programming in the arts as their primary mandate and purpose and have their administration and public programming based in eligible regions of the CRD.¹
- Be non-profit societies and have been registered in British Columbia for at least five (5) consecutive years immediately preceding the application deadline.
- Have been supported through CRD operating grants and actively presented arts programming in the CRD for at least five (5) consecutive years immediately preceding the application deadline.
- Have an active Board of Directors. Voting members of the Board may receive compensation for expenses directly related to Board duties (travel, childcare, etc) but not honoraria for participation or fees for services must not receive remuneration of any kind from the applicant organization.
- Have operating budgets that average at least \$120,000 over the past three (3) \$90,000 in the year of application and the two (2) years immediately preceding application, exclusive of capital projects or inkind contributions. (Organizations with operating budgets of less than \$90,000 may be eligible for funding through the Project Grants program.)
- Can provide either Review Engagement or Audited Financial Statements in accordance with the "Financial Statement Requirements" section.
- Can provide operational and programming plans for all three years of the grant cycle.
- Are in good financial health and are ineligible if in arrears with any local authority, are bankrupt, seeking creditor protection, are insolvent, or under court supervision of any kind.

¹ As of June 2024, the municipalities that contribute to the Capital Regional District Arts & Culture Support Service are: Victoria, Saanich, Oak Bay, Esquimalt, View Royal, Highlands, Metchosin, Sooke and Southern Gulf Islands.

INELIGIBLE ORGANIZATIONS AND ACTIVITIES

Given budget limitations, some activities are beyond the scope of this grant program, regardless of their merit. Operating Grants are not available for programs of civic departments or branches (e.g., libraries or community centres), nor are they intended for the activities of clubs or for organizations whose primary mandate involves social service, religion, sports or educational activities.

Training and educational organizations are not eligible unless they are determined to have public programming of regional significance. An organization will be determined to be primarily concerned with training or education if the majority of its earned revenue is derived from tuition or other payments for educational or training services.

An arts training organization may be eligible for funding for its public programming that is not related to the fulfillment of prescribed curriculum requirements or other educational activities. Recitals, exhibitions and other presentations intended to present or showcase the ongoing or final results of courses, classes, workshops, etc., are not eligible for funding under this program.

Note: Organizations with a current CRD Notice of Significant Concern are not eligible for the Multi-Year funding program. If an organization applies for Multi-Year funding and receives a NOSC, then it will be moved to the annual funding stream of Operating Grants.

In addition, the following activities do not qualify for Multi-Year Operating funding:

- contests and competitions
- capital projects
- tourism promotion
- scholarships

COMMITMENT TO EQUITY

The Arts Service is committed to supporting the development of equity in the region's arts sector. We are taking action to embed values of equity, diversity, inclusion, access, and cultural self-determination into our processes and policies, understanding that these concepts are not a static set of goals, but rather an evolving journey.

The aim of our commitment and these actions is to support the full diversity of artistic and cultural expression in the region. Recognizing that persistent and systemic discrimination has prevented equity-seeking groups from accessing resources, we continue to expand access and remove barriers to our funding. Equity-seeking groups include, but are not limited to, First Nations, Inuit and Métis people, those who are racialized, Deaf people, LGBTQ2+ people, and those with disabilities.

PROCESS SUPPORT

Applicants who are Deaf, hard of hearing or have a disability and need support to complete their grant applications can apply for funds to cover the costs of assistance from Service Providers. Up to \$500 is available for each eligible applicant in a calendar year.

Grant recipients who need to develop a Final Report verbally or in Sign language, or need other supports, can request this through the Arts Service. The requirement for this support must be directly related to being Deaf or having a disability. This support is a contribution towards the costs of transcription services or Sign language interpretation, to enable the recipients to submit their report in written English.

Requests for process support, for either grant applications or final reports, require approval from the Arts Service. Please contact our office at least three weeks before the deadline to determine eligibility, request support funding, and to review the process for payment to be made to your Service Provider.

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

The CRD Arts Advisory Council assesses Operating Grant application responses grouped into three assessment criteria categories. Organizations must demonstrate the following in their Operating Grant applications:

Artistic Contribution and Significance (33% of total score)

- An artistic program which reflects and fulfills the organization's mandate.
- A sound and clearly articulated artistic plan and a demonstrated ability to fulfill that plan.
- Overall contribution to the development of the art form, artists, other practitioners and broader artistic practice, in the context of a culturally diverse region.
- Activation of arts initiatives in underserved areas of the capital region.

Organizational Capacity and Governance (33% of total score)

- Evidence of a clear mandate, competent administration, sufficient organizational capacity, a
 functional Board and administrative and governance structures appropriate to the organization (e.g.,
 planning, development, marketing, financial management, Board development).
- Commitment to the development of B.C. artists and cultural practitioners, including the level of fees and other compensation to artists and cultural workers.
- Evidence of a diversified revenue base, including earned revenue, funding from other levels of government, and support from the private sector through fundraising, donations, sponsorships, or memberships.

Community Impact and Involvement (33% of total score)

- A contribution to communities that are being engaged which may include outreach, audience development, educational activities for the public, economic and social impact.
- The diversity, depth, and reciprocity of relationships with communities that are being engaged.
- Inclusion of cultural protocols and practices, where appropriate.
- Relationships and connections with underserved areas of the capital region.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT REQUIREMENTS

An organization applying for multi-year operating funding from the CRD must submit one of the following:

- a) Audited Financial Statements for the most recently completed fiscal year, where the previous year's grant from CRD Arts & Culture Support Service is \$250,000 or more.
- b) Review Engagement Financial Statements for the most recently completed fiscal year, where the previous year's grant from CRD Arts & Culture Support Service is \$50,001 \$249,999.

<u>COMMUNICATIONS – Images & Quotes</u>

Attach 4 - 10 print-quality digital photos from the programming of the previous multi-year cycle. Include artistic and photo credits for each image using the Communications Form. The images may be used in CRD Impact Reports and/or may be used on social media, on the CRD website, in presentations, and in other reporting and promotional materials, to represent arts activities developed with support from CRD funding. Please confirm necessary consent before submitting images. Please provide up to three quotes, from either participants or staff, demonstrating the impact of your activities.

ADJUDICATION PROCESS

Application Deadline:

A digital copy of the completed application and accompanying documents must be received by 4:30pm on the published deadline. If a cover letter is included, it will be read by staff, but not included in the adjudication package. The deadline is firm and late applications will not be accepted. Please check the CRD website for current information.

An invitation to apply to the Operating Grant Multi-Year Program does not guarantee multi-year funding nor does previous funding guarantee subsequent operating funding. If not recommended for multi-year funding, an organization will be considered for the annual operating grant program.

Review Process:

Arts Service staff review applications for completeness and may request further information or clarification as necessary.

Assessment and Notification:

The CRD Arts Advisory Council adjudicates all eligible applications and makes recommendations to the Arts Commission for approval. The Arts Commission's decision is final and cannot be appealed. Applicant organizations are informed of the results in January, following the deadline.

NOTICE OF SIGNIFICANT CONCERN

A Notice of Significant Concern (NOSC) will be issued to any organization assessed as having significant concerns in the areas of Artistic Contribution and Significance, Organizational Capacity and Governance, or Community Impact and Involvement. The NOSC will be included with an applicant's grant result and will clearly state the area(s) of concern that require remediation. Receipt of an NOSC requires the applicant to provide a separate report on all remediation activity (steps to resolve and the outcome) to be included with the following year's application. If an applicant does not adequately address the issues noted in their NOSC with their next Operating Grant application, funding may be reduced or withdrawn or conditions may be attached to future program eligibility.

Also, if at any time an applicant demonstrates less than exemplary behaviour in the public sphere, a meeting of the adjudication committee may be convened and the applicant's funding may be suspended or revoked.

PAYMENT OF GRANTS

In the application year, Multi-Year grants are approved for a three (3) year cycle, with equal grant payments recommended for each year of the cycle.

Payments in the second and third years are subject to review and approval of interim reports submitted at the annual Operating Grant deadline.

All funding recommendations are conditional upon approval of the Arts& Culture Service annual budget by the CRD Board. Upon budget approval, payments are made August 1st in the year following the deadline. In some cases, a partial early payment is possible in April. Contact the Arts Manager for details.

INTERIM REPORTING

Interim reports will provide concise updates to budget and programming after the first and second years, as well as current statistics, Board, staff and Financial Statements.

Interim reports are reviewed by staff and if there are no significant concerns, the organization's recommended grant payment will be forwarded for approval. In cases where there are significant changes from the original application, staff may refer the report to the Arts Advisory Council for review and a recommendation.

Interim report forms will be provided to organizations prior to the annual deadline or may be requested from the CRD Arts & Culture Service Administrative Assistant at 250-360-3215.

CHANGES TO FUNDING

All funding recommendations in this program are dependent upon the annual approval of the Arts & Culture Service budget by the CRD Board. Increases or decreases to the Arts & Culture Service budget will require a review of recommendations and may result in changes to grant payments.

Should an organization undergo any significant changes, fail to meet expectations, or fail to submit the required reports, the funding level may change.

CONDITIONS OF FUNDING

CRD funding support must be acknowledged in media, verbally at events, on websites and in print. Information describing how to acknowledge the CRD Arts & Culture Support Service is available at crd.bc.ca/service/arts-funding. This information, as well as CRD logos, may be requested through the Arts & Culture Community Outreach Coordinator at 250.360.3007.

Grant funds must be applied to operating expenses, not used to reduce, or eliminate accumulated deficits. Activities cannot be funded retroactively.

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

SUBMITTING AN APPLICATION

No late applications accepted. Digital files of the full application must be received by 4:30 pm on the published deadline. You will receive confirmation of receipt of your application within two business days.

What to Submit:

- □ Completed Part A Applicant info & answers to questions (Word Doc not pdf)
- □ Completed Part B − Budget (Excel not pdf)
- □ Completed Part C Statistics and Activity Lists (Excel not pdf)
- □ Completed Part D Projected Plans Years 2 & 3 (Word Doc not pdf)
- □ List of current Board of Directors with Board positions, start dates, and term lengths
- □ List of current Staff with name and position
- Review Engagement or Audited Financial Statements and Interim Statements if applicable
- □ Communications Form
- Images and Quotes (not for assessment, only reporting)
- □ Optional: up to 10 images in pdf with explanatory captions only for use in assessment as supplementary application materials

How to submit:

- 1. Complete all materials listed in 'What to Submit'
- 2. Save a copy of Parts A, B, C & D to your computer
- 3. Email 'What to Submit' documents and submit by the published deadline to: ApplytoArts@crd.bc.ca

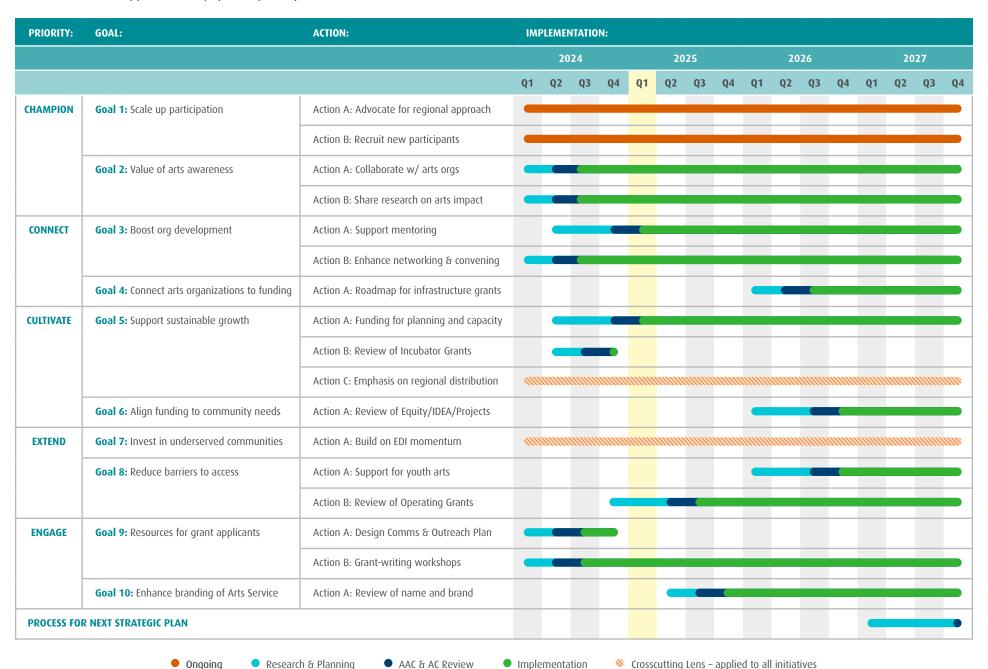
For more information:

Telephone: 250-360-3215 Email: artsdevelopment@crd.bc.ca

Note: The information provided in grant applications is subject to, and protected by, the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

2024–2027 Strategic Plan Implementation Timeline

CRD Arts & Culture Support Service | Updated January 2025





REPORT TO ARTS COMMISSION MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, MAY 21, 2025

SUBJECT CRD Arts and Culture: 2024 Impact Report

ISSUE SUMMARY

The CRD Arts and Culture: 2024 Impact Report has been completed and is ready for review by the CRD Arts Commission before being forwarded to the CRD Board for information, distributed to councils, and made available to the public.

BACKGROUND

Produced annually, the *CRD Arts & Culture Impact Report* provides a glimpse into the social, economic, and artistic impact of the CRD Arts & Culture Support Service. From 2018 to 2021, this report was called a Progress Report. In 2022, after an organization-wide review, it was renamed to "Impact Report," which more accurately reflects its purpose as an outreach initiative to show the impact of CRD arts funding. The 2024 Impact Report will be distributed widely, leveraging CRD digital platforms, including mailing lists, e-newsletters, and social media.

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

The 2024 Impact Report presents information through infographics, statistics, images, quotes, and stories around two broad themes: 1) the impact of CRD Arts and Culture Support Service funding through a record-high number of grant recipients, and 2) the sense of belonging that arts activities supported by this funding cultivates in communities throughout the region.

ALTERNATIVES

Alternative 1

The Arts Commission recommends to the CRD Board that staff distribute the *CRD Arts and Culture: 2024 Impact Report* virtually through the CRD website and as physical copies to all councils and electoral area directors to raise awareness about the positive impact of the Arts and Culture Support Service throughout the capital region.

Alternative 2

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

IMPLICATIONS

Copies of the 2024 Impact Report will be distributed to councils of participating and non-participating jurisdictions, as well as the CRD Board. The report will be distributed to the regional arts community and broader public through links in the CRD Arts & Culture e-newsletter (which has over 800 subscribers), social media, and the CRD website.

To limit the environmental impact of printing, grant recipients are provided with a link to the Impact

Report as a digital asset with the option to request a physical copy if they require it.

CONCLUSION

The 2024 Impact Report provides a glimpse into the crucial impact of CRD Arts and Culture grant funding and outreach activities. Once reviewed by the CRD Arts Commission and CRD Board, copies will be distributed to all jurisdictions and published on the CRD website.

RECOMMENDATION

The Arts Commission recommends to the CRD Board that staff distribute the *CRD Arts and Culture: 2024 Impact Report* virtually through the CRD website and as physical copies to all councils and electoral area directors to raise awareness about the positive impact of the Arts and Culture Support Service throughout the capital region.

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

ATTACHMENTS

Appendix A: CRD Arts and Culture: 2024 Impact Report

Appendix B: Presentation of 2024 Impact Report

Appendix C: List of 2024 Grant Recipients



TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The CRD conducts its business within the Territories of many First Nations, including but not limited to BOKEĆEN (Pauquachin), MÁLEXEŁ (Malahat), paa?čiid?atx (Pacheedaht), Spune'luxutth (Penelekut), Sc'ianew (Beecher Bay), Songhees, SŢÁUTW (Tsawout), T'Sou-ke, WJOŁEŁP (Tsartlip), WSIKEM (Tseycum), and xwsepsum (Kosapsum) Nations, all of whom have a long-standing relationship with the land and waters from time immemorial that continues to this day.

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



Organizational Overview

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

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

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All photos within this report are provided (with our thanks) courtesy of grant recipients. Unless otherwise noted, images are of 2024 programming.

Cover: Magic Lake Lantern Festival on Pender Island. Parade participants with their paper lanterns. Read about the festival on pg. 14. Photo: Kenta Kikuchi.

Message from the Chair of the Arts Advisory Council

It has been an honour to have been a member of the Arts Advisory council for over three years now – with 2024 being my first as Chair. I am grateful for the Council's dedicated members I get to collaborate with and learn from – and the breadth of inspiring organizations we get to support through our work.

As adjudicators, the Arts Advisory Council saw many, many exciting grant applications in 2024, and I'm pleased that we were able to fund more than ever before, with 101 successful applications. The resulting programming did not disappoint – we were continually impressed by the innovation and artistry of the arts events we attended, and the connection and community they foster.

The Council is also proud to have contributed to the advancement of the Arts Service's new 2024-2027 Strategic Plan in its first year. We advised on the development of a new Communications and Outreach plan for the Arts Service, a full evaluation of the Incubator Grant Program, and the subsequent design of the new Grow Forward Grant Program. Each initiative has resulted in significant improvements in the Arts Service's ability to meet the needs of the arts community.

We've seen the arts sector navigate increasingly difficult circumstances over the past year, and we know that we're not out of the woods. Our support must continue to adapt as well.



In the years to come, the Arts Advisory Council is determined to work closely with the Arts Commission, CRD Staff, and most importantly the arts community to remain responsive to changing funding needs, and to continue advocating for the value of the arts in our communities.

Sarah **REID** Chair, CRD Arts Advisory Council

Message from the Chair of the Arts Commission

2024 has been a particularly rewarding year. Many months' worth of planning, consultation and hard work came to fruition with the implementation of the Arts Service's new 2024-2027 Strategic Plan. I am delighted to share the remarkable progress we have already made in advancing our new strategic priorities and goals.

To broaden the scope of our funding impact, we enhanced our grant programs in 2024. After a comprehensive review of the underused Incubator Grant program, a new program was designed to take its place: the Grow Forward Grant. A direct response to feedback gathered from community engagement, Grow Forward Grants will better serve the needs of the arts community, helping organizations to build capacity, enhance sustainability, and achieve long-term success. So far, the program's reception has been heartening, and I'm excited to see the positive impact it will have in 2025.

A new Communications and Outreach Plan will work in tandem with our Strategic Plan, acting as a tool to raise awareness about the value of the arts and the importance of regional arts funding. Advocating for both continues to be central to our work, and our ambition to recruit new members to participate in the service.

The Arts Service also continues to meet a growing demand for support. In 2024 we awarded 101 grants totaling over \$2.7 million



 both record high amounts. I am grateful to have attended many of these outstanding arts events. Despite the current environment of economic uncertainty, I witnessed the powerful cohesive force these grant recipients create in our communities, fostering a sense of belonging, place, meaning, and connection when we need it most.

Supporting the local arts community remains crucial to our region's wellbeing. As we look ahead to 2025, the Arts Commission remains committed to cultivating a robust and dynamic cultural landscape that uplifts our communities and brings us together in joy, reflection and inspiration.

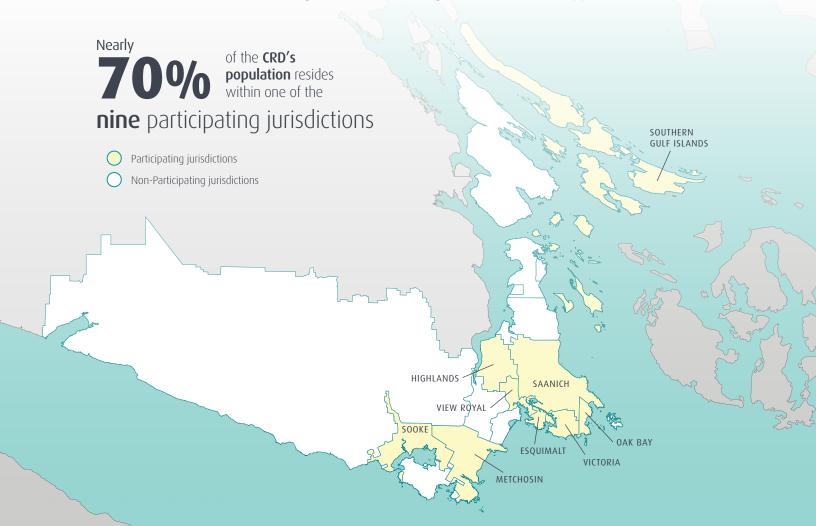
Marianne **ALTO** Chair, CRD Arts Commission

Supporting The Region's Arts

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

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

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







Strategic Plan Progress Highlights

2024 marked the first year guided by our new 2024–2027 Strategic Plan. Approved in the fall of 2023 after extensive community consultation, the plan included five new strategic priorities, each supported by corresponding goals and actions. The full plan can be found on our website at www.crd.ca/arts.

CHAMPION – ADVOCATING FOR THE ARTS



- ▶ Continued to communicate benefits of the Arts Service across the region with presentations at council meetings, targeted mailings and social media content
- ▶ Developed a data-sharing initiative in partnership with core Operating Grant clients
- ▶ Supported sectoral promotion and recognition through the GVRA awards
- ▶ Implemented Impact Stories series to demonstrate value of the arts with qualitative data



CONNECT - ENHANCING COLLABORATION

- ▶ Designed new Grow Forward Grant program to support sectoral mentorship
- ▶ Initiated planning of networking and convening event: 2025 Arts Champions Summit



CULTIVATE - DEVELOPING THE ARTS ECOSYSTEM

- ▶ Conducted full review of Incubator grant program
- ▶ Designed new Grow Forward Grant program to support planning and capacity
- ▶ Record-high applications received and funding amount awarded in 2024 (\$2.7 million)



EXTEND - BROADENING THE SCOPE OF IMPACT

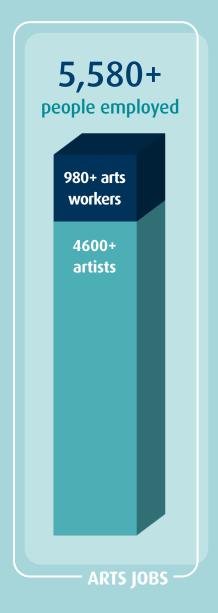
- ▶ Continued training to provide more accessible service and resources to grant applicants
- ▶ Initiated arts career pathways project to support youth in the arts sector
- ▶ Gathered community feedback for a program review of Operating Grants

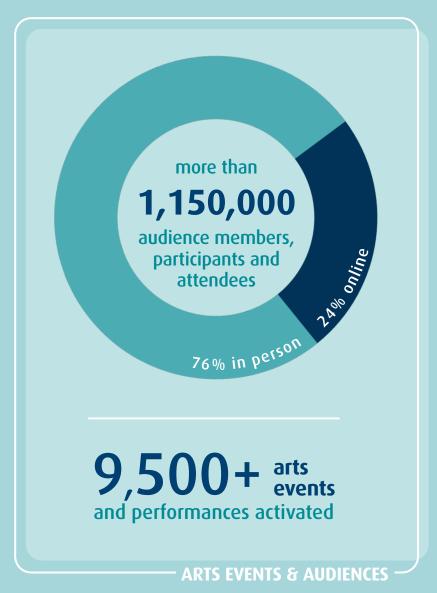


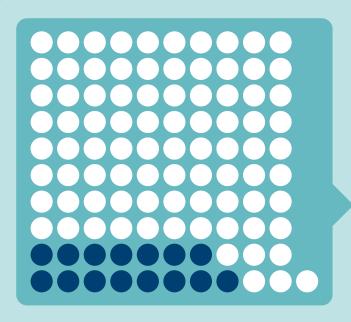
ENGAGE - SHARING OUR STORY AND LEARNING

- ▶ Developed and implemented new Communications & Outreach plan for the Arts Service
- ▶ Conducted information sessions for over 100 grant applicants

2024 FUNDING IMPACT







\$2.73M invested in arts through grant programs (record high!)

101 grants awarded to local not-for-profit arts organizations (record high!)

15 new grant recipients

INVESTING IN THE ARTS



The cultural sector generates ~\$9 in GDP for every dollar invested by governments¹



One in 72 BC workers is an artist, the highest provincial proportion²

STATE OF THE ARTS



914,000 people work in the arts, culture, & heritage sector in Canada²

¹Statistical insights by Hill Strategies, Government investment in culture: Comparisons with other indicators, 2025.

² Statistical insights by Hill Strategies, Artists in British Columbia in 2021, 2023.

Stories of Impact

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



Nagg and Nell in Timetheft Theatre's production of Samuel Beckett's Endgame. Photo: Haida Davies-McDermot.

NEWCOMBE SINGERS ASSOCIATION

Project Grant | Oak Bay

As part of their Choral Bridges Series, the Newcombe Singers aim to explore music from underrepresented cultural groups in the community. In 2024, they collaborated with the Victoria Nikkei Cultural Society and the Japanese Canadian Artists Directory to perform a special concert to celebrate the region's Japanese community.

The choir performed both contemporary pieces like "Autumn" by Japanese Canadian composer Cait Nishimura, and traditional Japanese folk music, sung in Japanese. Choir members were deeply touched to see people in the audience recognizing and singing along to the folk music.

TIMETHEFT THEATRE SOCIETY

Incubator Grant | Saanich

Timetheft Theatre Society produced Samuel Beckett's tragicomedy "Endgame" this past fall. The production included five performances and a post-show talkback with experts that offered deeper insights into the play, highlighting its relevance despite being written over 40 years ago. Positive feedback from UVic professor Peter McGuire deemed the production as "a complete success."

As a first-time grant recipient, Timetheft theatre noted that funding allowed them to develop their organization, enhance production quality, pay artists and team members more equitably, and provide honorariums to volunteers.



VANCOUVER ISLAND CARIBBEAN HUB

Project Grant | Victoria

i-Land Fest 2024 was a huge success. Despite it being the first year, nearly 6,000 people came out to enjoy the vibrant celebration of Caribbean culture. "We had a blast," said one festivalgoer, "looking forward to next year!"

The event kicked off with a lively parade, captivating a cheering crowd of about 4,000 with colorful costumes, dancing, and traditional Caribbean rhythms. Festivities continued after the parade at Centennial Square, where the community came together to connect and enjoy Caribbean food, dancing, music, art, history and games.

"One of the most powerful moments of i-Land Fest came during the parade" said Board Administrator, Kara Randall: "a fellow Caribbean community member stopped me... gave me the biggest hug, and said, 'Thank you for doing this. You don't even know how much this means to me.""

Kara says the festival had a powerful impact: "People expressed how they finally felt seen and like they belonged... the emotional responses we witnessed reinforced just how impactful i-Land Fest was... the Caribbean community—and all those interested in learning—could come together, feel celebrated, and share their heritage with pride."





-----Shanise Brown performing an acoustic set at Vibes & Verses. Photo: Joshua Telfer.

THREE ON THE TREE PRODUCTIONS SOCIETY

Project Grant | Southern Gulf Islands

The Magic Lake Lantern Festival is a unique Pender Island tradition, bringing the community together to celebrate creativity, togetherness, and the joy the new year holds. It features local performers and artists alongside a parade of over 200 people, their handmade paper lanterns made at workshops leading up to the main event.

One performer described the festival as "unique and so organically Gulf Island grown," saying, "I had more fun taking in the community art and magic... than I have in many years of overcrowded New Year's parties."

BC BLACK HISTORY AWARENESS SOCIETY

Equity Grant | Victoria

BC Black History Awareness Society's Vibes & Verses event was a vibrant celebration of the region's Black community, utilizing artistic expression to convey the complexities of the Black experience. By all accounts, it was a huge success.

Featuring performers, storytellers, dancers and musicians, the event was a showcase of local Black artists. The intimate 100-person event opened with performances of solo songs and spoken word poetry, before moving into a drumming and dance performance.

Meanwhile, attendees enjoyed Caribbean food from a local vendor and perused the "artist corridor" where artwork from local Black artists was displayed and available for sale. The night finally wrapped up with an upbeat DJ set and dance party, which attracted dancers young and old.

"The event had such a welcoming, open energy, with people singing along with songs and dancing in and out of their seats..." said a society representative, "People were impressed with the variety of different sounds and styles throughout the evening and commented on how this event is a truly unique experience for the region."

DANCE VICTORIA

Operating Grant | Victoria

Dance Victoria is committed to bringing high-calibre Canadian and international dance to the capital region and expanding the diversity of dance forms they present. A highlight of their 2023–2024 season was the presentation of Ōkāreka Dance Company's Mana Wahine, described as "a work binding Māori culture and dance in a contemporary context."

In planning, Dance Victoria staff learned about traditional protocols essential to the Ōkāreka Dance artists. To support them, they hired Lindsay Delaronde, co-founder of Visible Bodies Collective to act as a cultural liaison. Delaronde organized a welcome ceremony between the Ōkāreka artists and the Songhees nation, a movement workshop, and an Indigenous-led post-show talk.

The performance, which sold out at the McPherson Playhouse, profoundly impacted audiences. "This was the most deeply moving and spiritual performance I have ever attended," said one audience member, "the dance, music, lighting, and incredible storytelling will stay with me forever."

ATOMIC VAUDEVILLE

Operating Grant | Victoria

Over the past 20+ years, Atomic Vaudeville has attracted a devoted local following, creating thought-provoking, joyful productions that both "[blur] the line between spectacle and spectator," and foster a deep sense of community.

The company has also been described as "a central hub" or "springboard" for emerging professionals. "Through performing with [Atomic Vaudeville] for 14 years, my professional career in the performing arts, my business, and my family have all reaped the rewards," said one past performer. "It's an interesting model: hire a core ensemble, invite early career artists to increase the cast numbers, and say yes to anyone who wants to chip in in some way," said another, "It's genuine community building."





THE ARTS CULTIVATE A SENSE OF BELONGING IN THE REGION

"Small **moments of interpersonal connection** between artists and audience members... make Campbell Bay Music Festival what it is."

- Campbell Bay Music Festival Society





"People expressed how they finally **felt seen and like they belonged**... the Caribbean community...could come together, feel celebrated, and share their heritage with pride."

- Vancouver Island Caribbean Hub

"I saw the art gallery [as] a more community-oriented space... I **created new connections and friendships** within my community."

– Art Gallery of Greater Victoria workshop participant





"One of the most powerful outcomes... was the **sense of connection and belonging** that formed among participants... [they] built meaningful social connections that continued... fostering a lasting sense of community."

- Greater Victoria Social Gathering Place



"I experienced a **sense of belonging**, being able to laugh alongside hearing people and being able to take in the theatre experience like everyone else. More of this please."

- Deaf audience member at SNAFU's Epidermis Circus

"In times of uncertainty and stress, **art and creativity bring us together**."

– Friends of Sooke Parks Society





"Our job is to connect the different cultures in our country, to bring us all together in a conversation through theatrical experience that **deepens our mutual understanding** of each other... We make theatre to build bridges."

- Puente Theatre

"The Downtown neighbourhood [has] benefited from an **increased sense of belonging** and a strengthening of community that comes from social connection."







"At a time of deep division, **singing together creates positive bonds** with others, allowing for community connections and dialogue. This program is making a difference."

- Ptarmigan Arts

2024 Grant Recipients

EQ: EQUITY GRANT

GF: GROW FORWARD GRANT

ID: IDEA GRANT

OG: OPERATING GRANT

PG: PROJECT GRANT

* NEW GRANT RECIPIENT



Active/Passive Performance Society PG



Afro Latin Cultural Exchange PG



Alter Arts Society PG



Art Gallery of Greater Victoria OG



Atomic Vaudeville OG



Aventa Ensemble OG



Ballet Victoria OG



Bayanihan Cultural and Housing Soc. **EQ**



BC Black History Awareness Society **EQ**



Belfry Theatre OG



Broken Rhythms Victoria Society PG



Campbell Bay Music Festival PG



Caravan World Rhythms PG



Choral Evolution PG



CineVic OG



Civic Orchestra Society of Victoria PG



Cook St. Village Activity Centre ID*



Cook St. Village Business Association ID*



Dance Victoria OG



Deluge Contemporary Art OG



Early Music Society of the Islands OG



Edward Milne Community School ID*



Esquimalt Community Arts Hub PG



Friends of Sooke Parks ID



Function Arts & Culture Assn. EQ*



Galiano Literary Festival Society PG



Galiano Trails Society ID*



Garden City Electronic Music PG



Greater Victoria Performing Arts Fest OG



Greater Victoria Social Gathering Place ID*



Greater Victoria Youth Orchestra OG



Harmony Project Sooke ID



Hispanic Film Festival PG



Impulse Theatre OG



Int'l Institute for Child Rights & Dev. ID



Intrepid Theatre OG



Island Chamber Winds INC



Island String Players Society PG



Jewish Community Centre of Victoria ID



Kaleidoscope Theatre OG



MediaNet OG



Metchosin Arts & Culture Centre Assn. PG



Ministry of Casual Living Association PG



Monoceros Education Society **EQ**



Newcombe Singers Association PG*



Noble Riot Dance PG



Oaklands Community Association ID



Oasis Society **EQ**



Open Space OG



Pacific Opera Victoria OG



Planet Earth Poetry PG



Ptarmigan Arts Society **OG**



Puente Theatre OG



Resonance Collective / 14th guest EQ*



Salty Broad Productions Society PG*



SingYourJoy Young Adult Chorus Soc. PG



SNAFU Dance Theatre | H. Brinkman EQ



SNAFU Dance Theatre OG



Societe Francophone de Victoria PG



Sooke Community Choir PG



Sooke Festival Society PG



Sooke Harbour Players PG



Space Blanket Society PG



Story Theatre OG



Suddenly Dance PG



The Other Guys Theatre Company PG



Theatre Inconnu OG



Theatre SKAM OG



Three on The Tree Productions PG



Timetheft Theatre INC*



Township Community Arts Council PG



Vancouver Island Caribbean Hub PG*



Vancouver Island Cordillera Assn ID*



Vancouver Island Visual Arts Society INC



Victoria Arts Council OG



Victoria Baroque Players OG



Victoria BC Ska & Reggae OG



Victoria Brain Injury Society ID



Victoria Childrens Choir OG



Victoria Conservatory of Music OG



Victoria Downtown Residents Assn ID



Victoria Dragon Boat Festival Society **EQ**



Victoria Festival of Authors PG



Victoria Film Festival OG



Victoria Hospice Society ID



Victoria Italian Assistance Centre ID*



Victoria Jazz Society OG



Victoria Nikkei Cultural Society EQ*



Victoria On Stage **OG**



Victoria Philharmonic Choir Society PG



Victoria Poetry Project Society PG



Victoria Quilters Guild PG*



Victoria Shakespeare Society OG



Victoria Symphony OG



William Head on Stage PG



Xchanges Artists Gallery and Studios PG



Victoria Summer Music Festival PG



West Coast Reach Association EQ



Wonderheads OG



Yellowhouse Art Centre PG

Credits & Attributions

Active / Passive Performance Society | Coastal Blood Singers performance at Active / Passive Volume 6. Photo: Dayna Szyndrowski.

Afro Latin Cultural Exchange | Ritmo Latina performance at the Gala night At the Convention Centre. Photo: Dominic Tioseco.

Alter Arts Society | Event leads and organizers. Photo: World Enlarged Photography.

Art Gallery of Greater Victoria | Participants at painting workshop with exhibition artist, Elly Smallwood. Photo: AGGV Staff.

Atomic Vaudeville | HOPE SPRINGS INFERNO, Spring 2024. Photo: Helene Cyr.

Aventa Ensemble | Screencapture of Aventa's video recording 'Aventa presents the music of Gilles Tremblay,' (2021).

Ballet Victoria | Swan Lake, Dance of the Small Swans, Tchaikovsky. Photo: Gail Takahashi.

Bayanihan Cultural and Housing Society | Creative Collective's performance of Maria Cacao. Photo: Jun Tanquilut.

BC Black History Awareness Society | Shanise Brown performing acoustic set at Vibes & Verses 2024. Photo: Joshua Telfer.

Belfry Theatre | Brian Markinson, Nigel Shawn Williams and Celine Stubel in The Lehman Trilogy by Stefano Massini, Adapted by Ben Power. Photo: David Cooper.

Broken Rhythms Victoria Society | Chiaroscuro by Dyana Sonik-Henderson (2023). Photo: Helene Cvr.

Campbell Bay Music Festival | BC Fiddle Orchestra at Campbell Bay Music Festival Ag Hall Outdoor Stage. Photo: Wei Chong.

Caravan World Rhythms | Indian percussionist Zakir Hussain Trio performing with Debopriya Chatterjee and Sabir Khan. Photo: Sunny Gil.

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

CineVic | 12th annual Short Circuit Pacific Rim Film Festival – Safety & Survival Panel. Photo: lacqueline Cooper.

Civic Orchestra Society of Victoria | Performance of 'American Perspectives' program, directed by Nathan Jacklin. Photo: Jon Mark Photography. Cook St. Village Activity Centre Society | Sue Hara reading her writing from the Writer's Circle anthology. Photo: Jane Reside.

Cook St. Village Business Assn. | Cook Street Village Block Party. Photo: Brett Anderson.

Dance Victoria | Shion Skye Carter with Movement & Calligraphy workshop participants at DV Studios. Photo: Dayna Szyndrowski.

Deluge Contemporary Art | Territorial Imperative (installation view): Sarah Ballard, Big Top Collective, Yusuf Demirors, Kimberly Forero-Arnias, Janelle VanderKelen, Sebastian Weidermann, 2023. Photo: Deluge staff.

Early Music Society | The celebrated French Ensemble, Le Poème Harmonique rehearses for the October, 2023 concert of the Early Music Society of the Islands. Photo: W. Jamieson.

Edward Milne Community School | Stock Photo by ChatkarenStudio from Getty Images.

Esquimalt Community Arts Hub Society | Luke Ramsey working on 'Shadows and Reflection'. Photo: Cameron Lyon.

Friends of Sooke Parks | Solstice Lantern Walk hot chocolate tent. Photo: Phillip Kristiansen

Function Arts & Culture Festival Society | The Function Headliner crowd/performer. Photo: Femi (@indulgentimages).

Galiano Literary Festival Society | Tintype photography session. Photo: Donna Usher.

Galiano Trails Society | Stock photo by jdwfoto from Getty Images.

Garden City Electronic Music | Melchior Productions Ltd. performing live at Songhees Plaza for Wonderment 2024. Photo: Quinn Dawson (@captured.by.quinn)

Greater Victoria Performing Arts Festival | Romy Kashyap from Ballet Victoria Conservatory, performing at the Studio Dance highlights concert. Photo: Phil McOrmond.

Greater Victoria Social Gathering Place | Art of Resilience drawing workshop artwork. Photo: Greater Victoria Social Gathering Place staff.

Greater Victoria Youth Orchestra | GVYO French Horns in rehersal at the Baumann Centre. Photo: Stefan Shandro Harmony Project Society Sooke | Senior drumline class. Photo: Sheila Whincup.

Hispanic Film Festival | Dr. Isabel Leal presenting a film during 14th Latin American and Spanish Film Week. Photo: Dan Russek.

I-Land Fest | Section leader Simone Cole at I-Land Fest's inaugural Caribbean Carnival parade. Photo: Avi Creates.

Impulse Theatre | Flight Patterns Pop-Up Performance. Photo: Angus Gaffney.

Int'l Institute for Child Rights & Dev. | Stock photo by JackF from Getty Images.

Intrepid Theatre | Ivan Coyote in Playlist, part of Intrepid Theatre's OUTstages Festival 2024.

Island Chamber Winds | Pender Island performance. Photo: Rachel Lenkowski.

Island String Players Society | Performance of Richard Strauss' Metamorphosen. Photo: Staff.

Jewish Community Centre of Victoria | Ukrainian Bandurist Mariia Smolinska with VIJFF director Deborah Bricks. Photo: Mariia Smolinska.

Kaleidoscope Theatre | Shea O'Connor and Dawson Rutledge in The Lion, The Witch, and the Wardrobe. Photo: Anderson Images.

MediaNet | Installation of photography, audio and collage exhibition 'Seeing Ourselves.'
Photo: Cat Lewis.

Metchosin Arts & Culture Centre Association | Stock photo by Uncoated from Pexels.

Ministry of Casual Living Association | Amber E. Powell's mixed media artwork series, 'Wound Surround'. Photo: Sean Brennan.

Monoceros Education Society | Crafternoon participants learning macrame pot holders. Photo: Celeste Macevicius.

Newcombe Singers Association | Traditional Japanese dance performed during Sakura concert. Photo: David Randall.

Noble Riot Dance | 'Luminaries', by Kayla Henry and Christina Medina (2023). Photo: Joshua Lawrence.

Oaklands Community Association | Stock photo by Sisoje from Getty Images.

Oasis Society | Carving Space participant proudly showing their sandblasted design. Photo: Oasis Society Staff.

Open Space | Small Press Fest tabling fair. Photo: Dani Neira

Pacific Opera Victoria | Miriam Khalil as

Margarita Xirgu with dancers from Alma de España Flamenco Dance Company and members of the Pacific Opera Chorus in Ainadamar. Photo: David Cooper.

Planet Earth Poetry | Faith Arkorful reading her poetry. Photo: Kyeren Regehr/Sandy O'Reilly.

Ptarmigan Arts Society | Mosaic Festival 2024 music and dancing. Photo: Kenta Kikuchi.

Puente Theatre | Promotional photo from 'The Party,' performance/film, commissioned by the National Arts Centre Grand Acts of Theatre series. Photo: Victor Zúñiga.

Resonance Collective / 14th guest | Stock photo by Herror Conhache from Pexels.

Salty Broad Productions Society | Julie Mombourquette as Bonnie the Yeti in Hail Santa. Photo: Colin Smith.

SingYourJoy Young Adult Chorus Society | Performance at the Cridge Centre (2023). Photo: SingYourJoy Staff.

SNAFU & Holly Brinkman | Performance of A Woman's Guide to Peeing Outside at Orlando Fringe Festival. Photo: Jodie Christopherson.

SNAFU | Ingrid Hansen in Epidermis Circus. Photo: Helene Cyr.

Societe Francophone de Victoria | Summer Patio series. Photo: SFV staff.

Sooke Community Choir | Soloists performing at December concert. Photo: Lee Andersen.

Sooke Festival Society | Gord Phillips and Friends. Photo: Lindsay Neilson.

Sooke Harbour Players | Stock photo by pidjoe from Getty Images.

Space Blanket Society | Stock photo by Anna Tarazevich from Pexels.

Story Theatre | Lesedi Moyo and Tenyjah I. McKenna sign karaoke for Story Theatre's Art Brunch for Teen Creatives at Victoria Event Centre. Photo: Story Theatre.

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

The Other Guys Theatre Company | Skatepark shenanigans (2023). Photo: Matthew Payne.

Theatre Inconnu | Significant Other by Joshua Harmon. Kaelan Bain, Mariah Madill Photo by Suzanne Madill.

Theatre SKAM | The cast of SNAFU Society of Unexpected Spectacles in their show, "The Great Triscuit Heist", as part of SKAMpede 2024. Performers: Kathleen Greenfield, Jeni Luther, Logan Pahl, and Stan Lloyd. Photo: Janine Rzeplinski.

Three on the Tree | Magic Lake Lantern Festival. Photo: Kenta Kikuchi.

Time Theft Theatre | Annie Lucas and Morgan Christopher as Nagg and Nell in 'Endgame'. Photo: Haida Davies-McDermot.

Township Community Arts Council | Ken Lavigne concert. Photo: G. Garside.

Vancouver Island Cordillera Assn. | Bontoc and Ifugao tribal dances and regalia mentoring session. Photo: Marcos Ogen.

Vancouver Island Visual Arts Society | students from Camosun College's visual arts program viewing 'The Weight of Absence' exhibition at 780 Blandshard.

Victoria Arts Council | Current Threads artist talk with Vancouver Island Surface Design Assoc. Photo: Victoria Arts Council.

Victoria Baroque Players | Victoria Baroque in concert with guest violinist Aisslinn Nosky. Photo: Michael Bursthyn.

Victoria BC Ska & Reggae | Macka B & the Roots Ragga Band perform at Ship Point at Victoria's 25th Anniversary Ska & Reggae Festival. Photo: Rob Porter.

Victoria Brain Injury Society | Mounted art display, photo: Pam Prewett

Victoria Childrens Choir | Victoria Children's Choir, Full Choir at Songs for a Winters Night. Photo: Carla Unger.

Victoria Conservatory of Music | Issah Contractor performs at Postsecondary Contemporary Showcase. Photo: Jayden Beaudoin.

Victoria Downtown Residents Assn. | Pindian performing at Music on the Green on Pandora Green

Victoria Dragon Boat Festival Society | Victoria Dragon Boat Festival performer. Photo: Trifecta Productions

Victoria Festival of Authors | Writing for the Next Generation panel, with Karen Whetung, Ren Louie, Leslie Gentile, and moderator Joseph Kakwinokanasum. Photo: John Harley.

Victoria Film Festival | Victoria's own Atom Egoyan speaks to a group of emerging Victoria Filmmakers. Photo: VFF.

Victoria Hospice Society | Staged representation of music therapy. Photo:

Maryann Burrows.

Victoria Italian Assistance Centre | Jagged Roots performance at Victoria Italian Day. Photo: Jennifer Guerra.

Victoria Jazz Society | Lakecia Bejamin at Wicket Hall TD JazzFest 2024 Photo: Alain Bechard.

Victoria Nikkei Cultural Society | Stock photo by lifehouseimage fom Getty Images.

Victoria On Stage | Jennifer Wilde as the Wicked Witch of The West in The Wizard of Oz. Photo: Gord Ruf.

Victoria Philharmonic Choir Society | Rehearsal with Russel Braun. Photo: Megan Mather.

Victoria Poetry Project Society | Victorious Voices organizers and founders. Photo: Natasha Jade.

Victoria Quilters Guild | City of Gardens Quilt Show Guild Store. Photo: MaryAnn Jarvin.

Victoria Shakespeare Society | Grace Martin, Kai Tawil-Morsink, Rosemary Jeffery and Ian Case in Much Ado About Nothing, directed by Willis Taylor, GVSF 2024. Photo: Lara Eichhorn.

Victoria Summer Music Festival | Dover Quartet, Arthur Rowe. Photo: David Zussman.

Victoria Symphony | Victoria Symphony at the Royal Theatre. Photo: Kevin Light Photography.

West Coast Reach Association | Full cast performing finale number at the We Are One! show, Photo: Samuel Navarette.

William Head on Stage Theatre Society | 'Hatched' performance. Photo: lam Hamidi.

Wonderheads | Kate Braidwood as Ebenezer Scrooge in 'A WONDERHEADS Christmas Carol.' Photo: Daryl Turner.

Xchanges Artists Gallery and Studios | Regan Rasmussen Safety Within exhibition (2023). Photo: Xchanges staff.

Yellowhouse Art Centre | Opening of the Makery. Photo: Roksan Parfitt.

ARTS ADVISORY COUNCIL (2024)

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

Cris Caravaca Christina Haska
Mandart Chan Ari Hershberg
Rachel Ditor Eli Mushumanski
Sue Donaldson - Funding Chair Sarah Reid
Richard Gale Iill Smillie

Will Greaves Joanna Verano - Chair

ARTS COMMISSION (2024–2025)

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

ESQUIMALT Duncan Cavens / Andrea Boardman / Meagan Brame

HIGHLANDS Karel Roessingh

METCHOSIN Sharie Epp OAK BAY Carrie Smart SAANICH Colin Plant

SOOKE Dana Lajeunesse / Jeff Bateman

S. GULF ISLANDS Paul Brent

VICTORIA Marianne Alto - Chair

VIEW ROYAL Gery Lemon

CRD ARTS & CULTURE STAFF

Administers programs & provides support for regional arts decision making

Abby Gibbs Chris Gilpin Erin Sterling







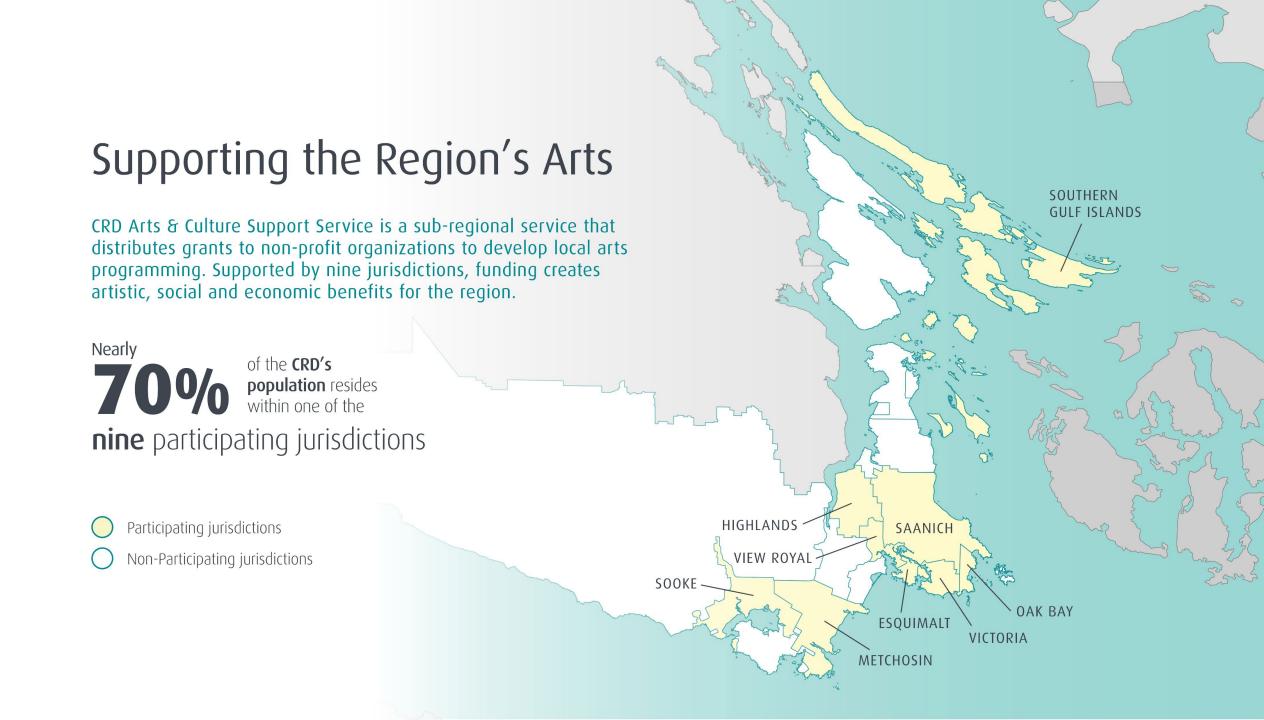
Capital Regional District

625 Fisgard Street Victoria, BC V8W 2S6 250.360.3215 www.crd.ca/arts @crdartsculture

Report

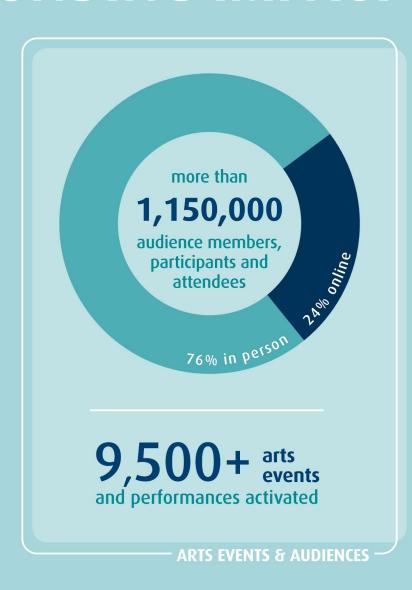
Arts & Culture

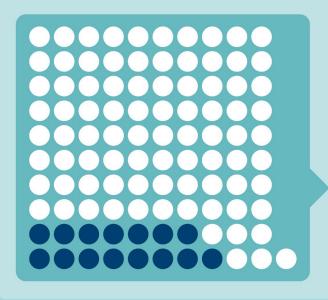




2024 FUNDING IMPACT

5,580+ people employed 980+ arts workers 4600+ artists ARTS JOBS





\$2.73M invested in arts through grant programs (record high!)

101 grants awarded to local not-for-profit arts organizations (record high!)

15 new grant recipients

INVESTING IN THE ARTS



The cultural sector generates ~\$9 in GDP for every dollar invested by governments¹



One in 72 BC workers is an artist, the highest provincial proportion²



STATE OF THE ARTS ·

914,000 people work in the arts, culture, & heritage sector in Canada²

Statistical insights by Hill Strategies, Government investment in culture: Comparisons with other indicators, 2025.

Statistical insights by Hill Strategies, Artists in British Columbia in 2021, 2023



Stories of Impact

NEWCOMBE SINGERS ASSOCIATION

Exploring and celebrating the music of underrepresented groups in the community.

TIMETHEFT THEATRE SOCIETY

New grant recipient developing their organization and enhancing production quality.

VANCOUVER ISLAND CARIBBEAN HUB

First inaugural Carnival festival celebrating Caribbean culture and fostering belonging.

THREE ON THE TREE PRODUCTIONS SOCIETY

Bringing the community together on Pender Island to celebrate creativity and togetherness.

BC BLACK HISTORY AWARENESS SOCIETY

Conveying the complexities of the Black experience through artistic expression.

DANCE VICTORIA

Bringing diverse, high-calibre dance to the region and honouring traditional cultural protocols.

ATOMIC VAUDEVILLE

Building community for over 20 years as a springboard for emerging artists.

THE ARTS CULTIVATE A SENSE OF BELONGING IN THE REGION

"People expressed how they finally **felt seen and like they belonged**... the Caribbean community...could come together, feel celebrated, and share their heritage with pride."

- Vancouver Island Caribbean Hub





"One of the most powerful outcomes... was the **sense of connection and belonging** that formed among participants... [they] built meaningful social connections that continued... fostering a lasting sense of community."

- Greater Victoria Social Gathering Place

Dancers at La Société Francophone de Victoria's Summer Patio Series. Photo: SFV Staff.

Strategic Plan Progress Highlights

CHAMPION - ADVOCATING FOR THE ARTS



- Continued to communicate benefits of the Arts Service across the region with presentations at council meetings, targeted mailings and social media content
- Developed a data-sharing initiative in partnership with core Operating Grant clients
- Supported sectoral promotion and recognition through the GVRA awards
- Implemented Impact Stories series to demonstrate value of the arts with qualitative data



CONNECT - ENHANCING COLLABORATION

- Designed new Grow Forward Grant program to support sectoral mentorship
- Initiated planning of networking and convening event: 2025 Arts Champions Summit



CULTIVATE – DEVELOPING THE ARTS ECOSYSTEM

- Conducted full review of Incubator grant program
- Designed new Grow Forward Grant program to support planning and capacity
- Record-high applications received and funding amount awarded in 2024 (\$2.7 million)



EXTEND - BROADENING THE SCOPE OF IMPACT

- Continued training to provide more accessible service and resources to grant applicants
- Initiated arts career pathways project to support youth in the arts sector
- Gathered community feedback for a program review of Operating Grants



ENGAGE - SHARING OUR STORY AND LEARNING

- Developed and implemented new Communications & Outreach plan for the Arts Service
- Conducted information sessions for over 100 grant applicants



Thank you!

2024 Arts & Culture Support Service Grants

OPERATING GRANT RECIPIENTS

* first time recipient

Annual	
Atomic Vaudeville	\$25,000
Aventa Ensemble	\$22,930
CineVic	\$25,000
Deluge Contemporary Art	\$38,210
Early Music Society	\$12,000
Greater Victoria Performing Arts Festival	\$8,000
Greater Victoria Youth Orchestra	\$8,000
Impulse Theatre	\$12,000
Kaleidoscope Theatre	\$59,500
MediaNet / FLUX gallery	\$19,000
Open Space	\$87,930
Ptarmigan Arts	\$19,400
Puente Theatre	\$34,500
SNAFU Dance Theatre Society	\$14,500
Story Theatre	\$40,000
Theatre Inconnu	\$27,500
Theatre SKAM	\$40,800
Victoria Arts Council	\$37,600
Victoria Baroque Players	\$9,550
Victoria BC Ska & Reggae	\$25,000
Victoria Childrens Choir	\$13,930
Victoria On Stage	\$21,500
Victoria Shakespeare Society	\$20,000
Wonderheads*	\$22,000
SUBTOTAL	\$643,850

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

OPERATING GRANT TOTAL: \$2,360,270



2024 Arts & Culture Support Service Grants

PROJECT GRANT RECIPIENTS

* first time recipient

JANUARY	
Active / Passive Performance Society	\$12,250
Afro Latin Cultural Exchange	\$8,400
Alter Arts Society	\$6,000
Campbell Bay Music Festival	\$8,475
Caravan World Rhythms	\$11,500
Choral Evolution	\$2,500
Civic Orchestra Society of Victoria	\$3,500
Garden City Electronic Music	\$8,000
Hispanic Film Society of Victoria	\$2,500
I-Land Fest*	\$6,000
Island String Players Society	\$4,000
Newcombe Singers Association*	\$2,250
Noble Riot Dance Theatre	\$7,000
Planet Earth Poetry	\$7,560
Societe Francophone de Victoria	\$11,250
Sooke Harbour Players	\$4,500
Space Blanket Society	\$3,315
Suddenly Dance	\$4,500
Three on the Tree Productions Society	\$2,000
Township Community Arts Council	\$5,000
Victoria Festival of Authors	\$9,000
Victoria Summer Music Festival	\$3,000
Yellowhouse Art Centre	\$7,500
SUBTOTAL	\$140,000

APRIL	
Broken Rhythms Victoria Society	\$10,500
Embrace Arts Foundation	\$8,000
Esquimalt Community Arts Hub Society	\$10,000
Galiano Literary Festival Society	\$10,000
Metchosin Arts & Culture Centre Assn.	\$10,570
Salty Broad Productions Society*	\$10,000
SingYourJoy Young Adult Chorus Society	\$9,500
Sooke Community Choir	\$2,500
Sooke Festival Society	\$8,550
The Ministry of Casual Living Association	\$10,000
The Other Guise (Guys) Theatre Company	\$6,012
Victoria Philharmonic Choir Society	\$9,000
Victoria Poetry Project Society	\$8,500
Victoria Quilters Guild*	\$1,218
William Head on Stage Theatre Society	\$16,250
Xchanges Artists Gallery and Studios	\$10,000
SUBTOTAL	\$140,000

PROJECT GRANT TOTAL: \$280,000



2024 Arts & Culture Support Service Grants

EQUITY, INCUBATOR & IDEA GRANT RECIPIENTS

* first time recipient

EQUITY	
Bayanihan Cultural and Housing Society	\$5,000
BC Black History Awareness Society	\$7,500
Function Arts & Culture Association*	\$5,000
Monoceros Education Society	\$7,500
Oasis Society	\$2,500
Resonance Collective*	\$5,000
SNAFU Dance Theatre	\$2,800
Victoria Dragon Boat Festival Society	\$5,200
Victoria Nikkei Cultural Society*	\$7,500
West Coast Reach Association	\$3,250
SUBTOTAL	\$51,250

INCUBATOR	
Island Chamber Winds	\$2,500
TimeTheft Theatre Society*	\$5,000
Vancouver Island Visual Arts Society	\$1,000
SUBTOTAL	\$8,500

\$8,500

IDEA	
Cook St. Village Activity Centre Society*	\$1,500
Cook Street Village Business Association	\$2,500
Edward Milne Community School*	\$2,500
Friends of Sooke Parks*	\$3,000
Galiano Trails Society*	\$1,950
Greater Victoria Social Gathering Place*	\$2,920
Harmony Project Society of BC (Sooke)	\$3,000
Int'l Institute for Child Rights & Dev.	\$3,000
Jewish Community Centre of Victoria	\$3,000
Oaklands Community Association	\$2,500
Vancouver Island Cordillera Association*	\$2,500
Victoria Brain Injury Society	\$2,500
Victoria Downtown Residents Assn.	\$3,000
Victoria Hospice Society	\$3,000
Victoria Italian Assistance Centre*	\$1,480
SUBTOTAL	\$38,350

EQUITY, INCUBATOR & IDEA GRANTS TOTAL: \$98,100

2024 ARTS SERVICE GRANTS TOTAL: \$2,738,370



Victoria Nikkei Cultural Society



To the CRD Arts Commission,

Last May, we received a \$7,500 CRD Equity Fund award for the creation of a permanent, public art project to be installed at Esquimalt Gorge Park. The project is a collaboration between Indigenous and Japanese Canadian artists and curators to highlight both communities' important and intersecting histories at the site.

We are delighted to inform you that your early support has allowed us to unlock further funding. We recently learned that the Japanese Canadian Legacies Society (JCLS) and the Canada Council for the Arts approved a further \$185,000 in funding for the project. Combined with other grants we received from the BC Arts Council and the Esquimalt Public Art Reserve Fund, our total confirmed budget for the project now stands at \$262,500.

This means that last May's CRD award helped generate a substantial increase in grant support from provincial and federal arts funding agencies, as well as from the JCLS. We sincerely thank the CRD Arts Commission for setting the stage for this broad show of support for the public art project.

Kind regards,

Tsugio Kurushima

President, Victoria Nikkei Cultural Society

Andrea Mariko Grant

for to

Project Manager & Co-curator