

ARTS COMMISSION

Notice of Meeting on **Wednesday, June 25, 2025, at 4:00 p.m.**
Board Room, 625 Fisgard Street, Victoria, BC; and Electronic Participation

M. Alto (Chair)
J. Bateman

M. Brame
P. Brent

S. Epp
G. Lemon

C. Plant
K. Roessingh

C. Smart

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

AGENDA

1. Territorial Acknowledgement

2. Approval of Agenda

Recommendation: That the agenda for the June 25, 2025 Arts Commission meeting be approved.

3. Adoption of Minutes of May 21, 2025

Recommendation: That the minutes of the Arts Commission meeting of May 21, 2025, be adopted.

4. Chair's Remarks

5. Presentations/Delegations

6. Commission Business

6.1 Arts Advisory Council Update

6.1.1. Arts Advisory Council Chair's Report (verbal)

6.1.2. Arts Advisory Council Minutes: June 10, 2025 - for information

6.1.3. Arts Advisory Council *Activities by Council Summary*: June 10, 2025 – for information

6.2. Manager's Report (verbal)

6.2.1 Outreach Report (written)

6.3 April 2025 Project Grant Recommendations

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

Attachments: Staff Report: April 2025 Project Grants Recommendations
Appendix A: April 2025 Project Grants Recommendations and Summaries

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

6.4 Greater Victoria Regional Awards Funding Request

Recommendation: That \$6,000 be provided to ProArt Alliance of Greater Victoria to support the 2025 Greater Victoria Regional Arts Awards to convene and celebrate the CRD arts community with \$5,000 dedicated to funding the CRD Arts Commission Regional Impact Award and \$1,000 dedicated to supporting the production of the event.

Attachments: Staff Report: GV Regional Arts Awards Funding Request
Appendix A: Letter from ProArt Alliance of Greater Victoria (May 31, 2025)

7. New Business

8. Correspondence: Sooke Region Museum (May 26, 2025) – thank you for IDEA grant
Pender Island Pride Society (May 27, 2025) – thank you for IDEA grant
First Peoples' Cultural Foundation (May 29, 2025) – donation in honour of Sue Donaldson

9. Adjournment

Next Meeting: September 17, 2025



Meeting Minutes

Arts Commission

Wednesday, May 21, 2025

4:00 PM

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

PRESENT

Members: M. Alto (Chair), J. Bateman (EP), P. Brent, M. Brame (EP), G. Lemon (EP), C. Plant (EP), C. Smart

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

AAC Guests: S. Reid (Chair), R. Gale (Vice Chair) (EP), J. Verano (Funding Chair)

EP – Electronic Participation

Regrets: S. Epp, K. Roessingh

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

1. Territorial Acknowledgement

Chair Alto took a moment to express our gratitude and acknowledge the opportunities that are afforded us because of the stewardship, for so many generations, of the Lək'wəḡən People, the Songhees Nation and the Xwsepsum (Kosapsum – traditional name of the Esquimalt) Nation, whose territories the City of Victoria occupies in its entirety and the location of the meeting today.

2. Approval of Agenda

**MOVED by Member Brent, SECONDED by Member Smart,
That the agenda for the May 21, 2025 Arts Commission meeting be approved.**
CARRIED

3. Adoption of Minutes

**MOVED by Member Paul Brent, SECONDED by Member Smart,
That the minutes of the Arts Commission meeting of March 26, 2025 be
adopted as circulated.**
CARRIED

4. Chair's Remarks

Chair Alto welcomed members at the start of the meeting and did not have any additional remarks.

5. Presentations/Delegations**5.1 Presentation: Greater Victoria Performing Arts Festival Association**

President Bill Devey (accompanied by Festival Manager Alyssa Hanke) made a request for funding, either through an adjustment of grant requirements, or a grandfathering of their organization.

6. Commission Business**6.1 Arts Advisory Council (AAC) Chair's Report (verbal)**

AAC Chair Reid spoke of the wonderful arts activities available this spring. The AAC met last week to review the results of the grant adjudications for the new Grow Forward program, along with the Equity and IDEA granting programs. The AAC has endorsed the staff report on the Operating Grant review on today's agenda. Sad news, funding chair Sue Donaldson passed away last month – there will be a Celebration of Life this Friday at 1 pm at the Esquimalt Gorge Pavilion. Joanna Verano has stepped in as temporary Funding Chair.

6.1.2 Arts Advisory Council Minutes: May 13, 2025 Meeting – received for information**6.1.3 Arts Advisory Council Activities by Council Summary - received for information**

**MOVED by Member Plant, SECONDED by Member Lemon
That the Arts Commission make a donation of \$200 to the First Peoples'
Cultural Foundation, in honour of Sue Donaldson. CARRIED.**

This donation will be taken from the Operating Reserve.

6.2 Manager's Report (verbal)

C. Gilpin reported that the information sessions that we organize for each grant intake have been well attended. The April Project Grant intake received 32 applications, which is above average. Good news from View Royal: their council deliberated and reaffirmed their current level of support. The City of Langford has sent out their timeline for the delivery of a new arts masterplan, and it now expected in the first quarter of 2026. The Arts Champion Summit will be November 4th 10 am – 3 pm at the Baumann Centre. A full report on the itinerary will come to the June meeting. Reminder that the September Arts Commission meeting was moved one week earlier to September 17th.

Member Smart wondered, since the Arts Commission meeting is a public meeting, if it would be helpful to encourage Langford to send a council member to attend meetings as a guest.

Member Brame suggested that, when we send out the Impact Report to all jurisdictions, we include a line in the cover letter to encourage folks to attend Arts Commission meetings as guests. Staff indicated that this would be done.

6.2.1 Outreach Report (attached)

6.3 2025 Equity & Grow Forward Grant Recommendations

C. Gilpin noted that staff had anticipated receiving 12-15 applications to the new Grow Forward granting program; after receiving 19, it is apparent that this program is meeting a community need.

**MOVED by Member Brent, SECONDED by Member Brame,
The Arts Advisory Council recommends to the Arts Commission:
That the 2025 Equity & Grow Forward Grant recommendations be approved as presented. CARRIED.**

6.4 2025 IDEA Grant Recommendations

Member Smart expressed appreciation for the balance struck with a large number of applications and the desire to fund more projects while also maintaining a useable grant amount.

**MOVED by Member Smart, SECONDED by Member Brent,
The Arts Advisory Council recommends to the Arts Commission:
That the 2025 IDEA Grant recommendations be approved as presented. CARRIED**

6.5 Operating Grant Program Review

In response to a question about “underserved areas,” C. Gilpin explained that the Arts Advisory Council was already considering that informally, and the suggested change is to formalize that consideration in the assessment criteria.

**MOVED by Member Paul, SECONDED by Member Carrie
The Arts Advisory Council recommends to the Arts Commission:
That the changes to the Operating Grant program be approved as presented.
CARRIED**

6.6 2024 Impact Report

Members shared their appreciation for the high quality of the report. Member Plant expressed a desire to request time at the Board to present the Impact Report and wondered if a motion was needed. Chair Alto and staff confirmed that a motion was not needed; the request could go through internal channels. Member Smart wondered if staff could also distribute the Impact Report to economic organizations such as South Island Prosperity Partnership, the chambers of commerce and business associations. Staff agreed to do this.

**MOVED by Member Brent, SECONDED by Member Smart,
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.
CARRIED**

7. New Business

**MOVED by Member Plant, SECONDED by Member Brame,
To add a new item to the agenda under item 7, which would be number 7.1,
Consideration of the GVPAF request. CARRIED**

Member Smart left the room due to a conflict of interest.

7.1 Consideration of GVPAF Request

The Greater Victoria Performing Arts Festival Association does not meet current criteria to be eligible for Operating Grant funding support.

From member comments, Chair Alto did not hear an appetite for a reconsideration or appeal, but did hear an appetite to ask staff and the Arts Advisory Council to provide some recommendations on evolving Operating Grant criteria to consider organizations involved in activities such as those outlined by GVPAF.

C. Gilpin explained the usual process for policy development is that staff write a discussion paper and bring it to the AAC to get feedback on it. Staff then incorporates the feedback into a staff report which then comes back to the AAC and can advance to the Arts Commission.

**MOVED by Member Plant, SECONDED by Member Lemon,
That the Arts Commission ask staff to provide a discussion paper to the Arts Advisory Council for their consideration, resulting in a report back to the Arts Commission with any potential recommendations regarding arts training organizations. CARRIED**

Staff agreed that the phrase “arts training organizations” would include activities such as competitions and festivals connected to student development.

Staff agreed to notify GVPAF about the decisions made today.

Member Smart returned to the meeting.

- 8. Correspondence** – Victoria Nikkei Cultural Society sent a letter to express gratitude that a small amount of support from the CRD allowed them to leverage a much larger amount of support.

9. Adjournment

**MOVED by Member Plant, SECONDED by Member Smart,
That the May 21, 2025 Arts Commission meeting be adjourned at 5:12 pm.
CARRIED**

Chair

Recorder

Meeting Minutes Arts Advisory Council

Monday, June 16, 2025

5:00 PM

Via Video Conference

PRESENT

Members: R. Gale (Acting Chair), C. Haska, J. Noomen, J. Smillie, P. Tsolo, J. Verano

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

Regrets: R. Ditor, E. Mushumanski, A. Reid, S. Reid (Chair)

The meeting was called to order at 5:01 pm.

1. Territorial Acknowledgement

Acting Chair R. Gale offered acknowledgement and respect for all First Nations who have stewarded the lands and waters around the capital region since time immemorial.

2. Approval of Agenda

The agenda for the June 10, 2025 Arts Advisory Council meeting was approved by acclamation.

3. Adoption of Minutes

3.1 Arts Advisory Council Minutes of May 13, 2025

Moved by J. Noomen, SECONDED by J. Verano,

That the minutes of the Arts Advisory Council meeting of May 13, 2025 be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

3.2 Arts Commission Minutes of March 26, 2025

Received for information

4. Acting Chair's Report

Acting Chair R. Gale gave a shout out to those members of the AAC team who attended the May Arts Commission meeting, as they were asked some hard and good questions, and answered them well. Good wishes to S. Reid who is in Europe.

5. Manager's Report

C. Gilpin reported on the following:

- The Arts Commission voted unanimously to donate \$200 to the First Peoples' Cultural Foundation in honour of Sue Donaldson, which was a thoughtful and generous gesture.

- Also at the Arts Commission meeting was a presentation by Bill Devey of the Greater Victoria Performing Arts Festival Society, who were removed from Operating Grant support in the fall 2024 adjudication. There is no basis for an appeal, and no funding decision reversal was requested or will happen. This is the context for the Arts Training discussion paper.
- C. Gilpin has been working with the consultants whose report is coming to the Performing Arts Facilities Select Committee on July 2nd. This could go to the CRD Board as soon as one week later, but it depends on the will of the committee.

6. April 2025 Project Grant Recommendations

MOVED by C. Haska, SECONDED by P. Tsolo,

That the Arts Advisory Council recommends to the Arts Commission:

That the April 2025 Project Grant recommendations be approved as presented. CARRIED

7. Arts Training Organizations Review

C. Gilpin explained that there are two types of eligibility: the eligibility of applicant organizations, and the eligibility of activities. Currently we do allow arts training organizations to apply to Project Grants if they are doing an arts presentation that is not the result of a curriculum. We could tighten eligibility to organizations that have programming in the arts as their “primary mandate and purpose,” not just one of their mandates/purposes. All of our grant intakes currently disallow contests/competitions. AAC members offered feedback in response to the discussion paper, agreeing that arts training organizations were important but that Arts & Culture funding was limited and there was already high demand for funding dollars.

8. ABCs (Activity by Council Summary) – was received for information and some members discussed arts activities they had attended in the past month.

9. Correspondence – thank you letters from Sooke Region Museum and Pender Island Pride were received.

10. Adjournment

MOVED by C. Haska, SECONDED by J. Smillie,

That the June 10, 2025 Arts Advisory Council meeting be adjourned at 5:56 pm. CARRIED

Chair

Recorder

Arts Advisory Council Meeting: Tuesday, June 10, 2025

Activities by Council (ABCs)

Local:

Ballet Victoria	A Midsummer Night's Dream
Between Words	Victoria One Act Play Festival 2025 (at Belfry Studio)
Hapax Theatre	Theatre Trivia Night
Pacific Opera Victoria & Victoria Symphony	Gryphon Trio ECHO: Memories of the World (part of the Luminary Series)
Peninsula Players	An Unexpected Guest
Saturna Island Marine Research & Education Society	Critical Distance: an immersive experience with the southern resident killer whales
Southern Gulf Islands Arts Council	Regional Arts Show (Mayne)
St. Michael's University School	Automatic (play) Jazz Night Summer Pops Concert (at Farquhar Theatre)
Story Theatre	Dreamweavers (at Metro Studio)
Victoria Arts Council	Astral Bash Fundraiser
Vox Humana	Of the Earth

Online:

Huh?milton (Musical Comedy)	with Rachel Bloom, Dan Gregor, Julia Lester, Zach Reino and Jess McKenna
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Out of Town:

Sweden:	Market Art Fair 2025 - Liljevalchs, Stockholm Barberaren i Sevilla - Kungliga Operan, Stockholm Drottningholms Slottsteater (theatre) – Drottningholms
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Making a difference...together

OUTREACH REPORT TO THE ARTS COMMISSION MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25, 2025

The following is a short summary of the outreach initiatives undertaken since the last Arts Commission meeting on May 21st:

RAISE AWARENESS ABOUT THE VALUE OF THE ARTS

Send quarterly e-newsletters

- Continued preparation for migration to new e-newsletter platform, Constant Contact (CRD-wide initiative)
- Sent out to 860 subscribers, featured: Impact Report, LampPost Victoria spotlight

Implement Impact Story series

- Finalized and published promotional social media content to promote the Impact Report

RE-EVALUATE THE ARTS & CULTURE SUPPORT SERVICE NAME & BRAND

Set scope of review and create engagement plan

- Initiated research and project proposal process; scope and engagement plan to be identified in proposal

PLAN AND HOST A BIENNIAL ARTS CHAMPIONS SUMMIT

Convene Arts Champions group and determine theme

- Theme: Creative Capacity – Growing Forward Together

Plan summit logistics, content and speakers

- Chair Alto to emcee event
- Welcome by Songhees cultural carrier
- Presentations:
 - Future-focused presentations by arts groups
 - Highlighting sectoral collaborations and innovations
- Group generation activity for new collaborations
 - Objective: spark new collaborative projects
 - Objective: everyone leaves with at least one new contact in CRD arts sector
- Arts Funder Connections
 - Significant interest from other arts funders (BC Arts Council, Canada Council, Victoria Foundation)
 - Community wants to connect with more sources of funding
 - Objective: bring all arts funding into one room and create connections
 - Objective: everyone leaves with one new connection to a funder
 - Possible presentation by Provincial rep (Parliamentary Secretary or Minister)
 - Nudge other funders to prioritize CRD arts groups and community needs

EXPANDED PROMOTION OF GRANT INTAKES AND FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Host information sessions

- Developing invite-only grant-writing workshop for Operating clients for August 2025

PRODUCE ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT

Publish & launch report

- Approved Report included on the June 11th CRD Board consent agenda, print copies provided at the meeting
- Published to CRD public website
- Launched report with media release on June 19th, generating two media articles so far:
 - Chek News: [CRD Arts Service invests record \\$2.73M in arts grants in 2024](#)
 - Vancouver Island Free Daily: [Report outlines the powerful appeal of the arts in Greater Victoria - Vancouver Island Free Daily](#)
- Promoted via social media, and in e-newsletter
- Targeted digital distribution to all councils, community partners, municipal offices, and local economic organizations – print copies available on request.

REPORT TO ARTS ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING OF TUESDAY, JUNE 10, 2025

SUBJECT April 2025 Project Grants Recommendations

ISSUE SUMMARY

The adjudication committee for the April 2025 Project Grants 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 Projects, Series & Extended Programming Grants (commonly known as “Project Grants”) provide support for organizations to produce or present one-time projects, a short series of events, or extended programming taking place over 12 months or less.

At the April 2025 deadline for Project Grants, 32 applications were received, above average for the April intake (see Table 1). No applications were ruled ineligible by staff. The total request from eligible applications of \$321,530 was above average for the April intake. 19 grants were awarded, which is in line with previous years. The applicant success rate of 59% is lower than the average for the April intake.

Table 1. Project Grants: Recent Funding History

Year	Intake	# Eligible Applications	# Awards	Success Rate	Total Request	Total Awarded	Median Request	Median Award
2022	Jan	27	18	67%	\$259,732	\$120,000	\$10,000	\$6,600
2022	Apr	36	22	61%	\$285,212	\$120,000	\$7,807	\$5,000
2023	Jan	28	20	71%	\$231,335	\$140,000	\$8,150	\$6,513
2023	Apr	21	20	95%	\$196,552	\$142,400	\$9,300	\$8,000
2024	Jan	35	23	65%	\$317,211	\$140,000	\$8,000	\$6,000
2024	Apr	20	16	80%	\$203,838	\$140,000	\$10,000	\$9,450
2025	Jan	34	17	50%	\$316,020	\$140,000	\$10,000	\$7,000
2025	Apr	32	19	59%	\$321,530	\$140,000	\$9,650	\$7,500

An adjudication committee of three Council members met in May 2025 to consider 32 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.

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

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

- payment of artists
- the benefit to the art form and to the arts in the region
- knowledge of the target audience
- accessibility (physical, financial, cultural, and other)
- benefits to the community, including to equity-seeking groups and underrepresented arts and cultural practices
- reasonableness of the budget and of projected expenses and revenues

The scoring methodology provided a comparative assessment of the merits of each proposal relative to the program's published goals and intended outcomes. The adjudication committee also considered factors related to regional distribution of arts funding and organizational niche in the arts ecosystem.

19 applications are recommended for funding. 13 applications are not recommended for funding (see Appendix A for more details).

ALTERNATIVES

Alternative 1

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

Alternative 2

That this report be referred to staff for additional information.

IMPLICATIONS

Financial Implications

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

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

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

Granting Program	2025 Budget	2025 Allocated	2025 Paid Out
Operating Grants	\$2,421,070	\$2,421,070	\$311,725
Project Grants	\$280,000	\$280,000	\$140,000
Equity Grants	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000
Grow Forward Grants	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000
IDEA Grants	\$33,000	\$33,000	\$33,000
Total	\$2,814,070	\$2,814,070	\$564,725

Service Delivery Implications

On September 27, 2023, the Arts Commission passed a motion that “eligibility for Projects Grants be changed so that unsuccessful applicants to the first intake have the option to apply to the second intake with the same project or a new project,” as well as a separate motion that “staff report back to the Art Commission with the results of this policy change, after both project grant adjudications in 2024.”

The program guidelines for 2024 Projects Grants were modified to reflect this policy change and to notify applicants that: “Organizations that apply to CRD Projects Grants at the January deadline and are not successful may apply again at the April deadline.”

At the January 2025 intake of Projects Grants, twelve applicants were not successful. Of those, there were five applicants who reapplied:

- Choral Evolution Society: applied in both Projects intakes and was unsuccessful in both.
- ArtisTREE Festival Society, The Fifty Fifty Arts Collective, The Other Guise Theatre Company, and Township Community Arts Council: applied in both Projects intakes and were successful in the April intake.

Overall, the change in policy resulted in five additional applications to the April Project Grants intake, four of which were successful. This is a manageable amount in terms of administration and adjudication capacity. Staff will continue to monitor re-applications and any emerging trends due to this policy.

CONCLUSION

The adjudication committee has assessed 32 applications received at the April 202 Project Grants deadline. The 19 projects recommended for a grant will fulfil the Arts & Culture Support Service’s purpose to provide benefits to the community through its funding programs and will support a range of organizations to produce arts programming for audiences in the capital region.

RECOMMENDATION

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

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

Appendix A: April 2025 Project Grants Recommendations and Summaries

2025 April Project Grants

	Organization	Jurisdiction	Eligible Request	2025 Recom'd
1	ArtisTREE Festival Society	Victoria	8,900	6,675
2	Bounce Performance Works Society	Victoria	6,875	0
3	Canadian Heritage Arts Society	Oak Bay	5,875	0
4	Capriccio Vocal Ensemble Society	Victoria	4,650	0
5	Caravan World Rhythms Society	Victoria	16,250	10,000
6	Choral Evolution Society	Sooke	5,000	0
7	Ensemble Laude Choral Society	Saanich	8,640	0
8	Ethno Collective (NEW)	Victoria	10,000	7,500
9	Fifty Fifty Arts Collective, The	Victoria	10,000	7,000
10	Galiano Concert Society (NEW)	SGI	20,000	0
11	Galiano Literary Festival Society	SGI	8,900	6,675
12	Island Chamber Winds Society	SGI	11,400	8,550
13	Ministry of Casual Living Association, The	Victoria	10,000	7,500
14	Other Guys/Guise Theatre Company, The	Victoria	10,500	0
15	Planet Earth Poetry Reading Series Society	Victoria	9,000	9,000
16	Salty Broad Productions Society	Victoria	8,000	0
17	Sooke Arts Council	Sooke	5,740	0
18	Sooke Community Choir	Sooke	3,000	0
19	Sooke Festival Society	Sooke	8,550	5,000
20	Sooke Philharmonic Society, The	Sooke	9,300	0
21	Sooke Radio Society (NEW)	Sooke	10,000	7,500
22	Story Studio Writing Society	Victoria	5,950	5,000
23	Three on the Tree Productions Society	SGI	4,000	4,000
24	Totally Together Collective Arts Society (NEW)	Victoria	10,000	0
25	Township Community Arts Council	Esquimalt	15,000	10,000
26	Vancouver Island Visual Arts Society	Victoria	10,000	7,500
27	Veselka Ukranian Dance Association	Victoria	2,750	2,700
28	Victoria Choral Society	Victoria	10,000	7,500
29	Victoria Philharmonic Choir Society	Victoria	18,000	0
30	Victoria Poetry Project Society	Victoria	8,500	8,500
31	William Head on Stage Theatre Society	Metchosin	23,000	12,000
32	Xchanges Artists Gallery and Studios Society	Victoria	12,000	7,400
Total:			309,780	140,000

2025 April Project Grants – Recommendation Summaries

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

	Jurisdiction	Project Category	2025 Request	2025 Recommendation
ArtisTREE FESTIVAL SOCIETY	Victoria	OT	8,900	6,675

Funding History: 2025 JanPG: \$0

Mandate

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

Project Summary: *ArtisTREE Festival: “Celebrating Creativity”*

The Festival brings together art and creativity in a plethora of expressions including art and artisans, live music, performance and food, including Cultural Demonstrations and Workshops, Interactive Art Installations, Demonstration Artists and Performance Artists.

Comments on Recommendation

This application demonstrated a high degree of alignment to the goals and intended outcomes of the Projects Grant program and scored above the level required to fulfill the goals and intended outcomes of the program. The recommendation is for funding support at an amount lower than their full request based on similar reductions to other applicants that scored in the same tier.

2025 April Project Grants – Recommendation Summaries

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

	Jurisdiction	Project Category	2025 Request	2025 Recommendation
BOUNCE PERFORMANCE WORKS SOCIETY	Victoria	OT	6,875	0

Funding History: 2012 AprPG: \$8000; 2013 AprPG: \$7000; 2015 JanPG: \$8000;
2016 JanPG: \$8000; 2023 AprPG: \$9000; 2025 GF: \$0

Mandate

Bounce Performance Works (BPW) creates and performs original theatre and adapts existing texts. We make use of the forms of dance, physical theatre, music, poetry, visual art, film, television, and other creative mediums in multidisciplinary productions.

Project Summary: *Wind Songs, development*

A research and development initiative for a new play centred around a fictional female writer living during the English Regency Period (1788-1824). In this inaugural phase, we intend to develop a first draft of the work in collaboration with actors.

Comments on Recommendation

This application was in the lower tier of all applications received at this granting intake and scored below a satisfactory level in the description of development of artists, personnel, anticipated audience, accessibility, benefits to the region, benefits to equity-seeking groups or underrepresented arts and cultural practices, and project budget. It is not recommended for support at this time. The application could have benefited from more clarity and detail in the application as well as a stronger focus on presentation activities.

2025 April Project Grants – Recommendation Summaries

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

	Jurisdiction	Project Category	2025 Request	2025 Recommendation
CANADIAN HERITAGE ARTS SOCIETY	Oak Bay	OT	5,875	0

Funding History: 2024 AprPG: \$0; 2025 GF: \$0

Mandate

The purposes of the Canadian Heritage Arts Society (CHAS) are to provide:

- 1) Instruction and training in the performing arts through ownership and operation of the Canadian College of Performing Arts (CCPA); and
- 2) Community outreach programs to preserve and promote arts and culture and increase public appreciation of the performing arts through public performance, exhibitions, and education.

Project Summary: *Voices of Remembrance: Honour, Diversity, and Community*

Creating a new performance work that celebrates under-represented veterans, highlighting the service of women and Indigenous veterans more prominently. This will be part of the annual Remembrance Day event produced by CHAS and performed by emerging artist students of CCPA

Comments on Recommendation

This application was in the lower tier of all applications received at this granting intake and scored below a satisfactory level in the description of personnel, benefits to the region, and project budget. It is not recommended for support at this time. The application could have benefited from more details on the performers who will be commissioned, their compensation, and a more advanced stage of relationship-building with equity-seeking communities.

2025 April Project Grants – Recommendation Summaries

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

	Jurisdiction	Project Category	2025 Request	2025 Recommendation
CAPRICCIO VOCAL ENSEMBLE SOCIETY	Victoria	OT	4,650	0

Funding History: 2012 JanPG: \$2000; 2013 JanPG: \$2000; 2014 JanPG: \$3000; 2015 JanPG: \$4000; 2016 JanPG: \$2000; 2017 JanPG: \$2000; 2018 JanPG: \$3000; 2019 JanPG: \$2750; 2020 JanPG: \$1500; 2022 JanPG: \$0; 2022 AprPG: \$1850; 2024 AprPG: \$0

Mandate

Capriccio is an acclaimed, multi-voice vocal ensemble of 30-40 members who love to sing. Our mandate is to perform, and enable the enjoyment of, outstanding public programming in the choral arts. Capriccio is dedicated to performing the finest choral music, and we attract talented adults and young adults of all vocal ranges from our Capital Region. We sing a wide variety of music ranging from before the 15th Century to the present, from intricate unaccompanied works to large choral/orchestral productions, all performed in Capriccio's signature style of virtuosic clarity with a sensitive, compelling spirit.

Project Summary: *Remembrance Day Concert: The Power of Music in Extraordinary Times*

Highlighting the stories and music of the experiences and contributions of women during World War II, and the profound role of music within both Japanese and Jewish internment camps.

Comments on Recommendation

This application was in the lower tier of all applications received at this granting intake and scored below a satisfactory level in the description of development of artists, personnel, anticipated audience, accessibility, benefits to the region, and benefits to equity-seeking groups or underrepresented arts and cultural practices. It is not recommended for support at this time. The application could have benefited from more clarity and detail in the application, especially around the nature of the benefits of the activity and the artistic content of the show.

2025 April Project Grants – Recommendation Summaries

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

	Jurisdiction	Project Category	2025 Request	2025 Recommendation
CARAVAN WORLD RHYTHMS SOCIETY	Victoria	EXT	20,000	10,000

Funding History: 2020 JanPG: \$2000; 2021 JanPG: \$10000; 2022 JanPG: \$5000;
2023 JanPG: \$12000; 2024 JanPG: \$11500

Mandate

Caravan’s mission is to create bridges and greater understanding and appreciation between cultural communities in British Columbia (CRD and Metro Vancouver regions). Our mandate, to achieve our mission is: To program and present unique high-quality performing arts events featuring the diversity of cultural traditions from around the globe, especially those that are under-represented in our cultural sector; to support local and emerging artists from diverse and under-represented cultures; and to provide diverse audiences opportunities to further their appreciation of culturally diverse music & dance traditions through workshops, lectures, newsletters, and other means. Our events include ticketed and free events, featuring local, Canadian, and international artists. Caravan’s activities are guided by values of inclusivity, accessibility, and appreciation and respect for the artistic and cultural expressions from around the world.

Project Summary: *Global Music & Dance Concert and Workshop Series*

15 – 18 events that will take place between July 2025 and June 2026, and will include ticketed and free performances, workshops, lecture-demos, and related activities, featuring local, BC, Canadian, and international performers. These activities reflect Caravan’s mandate to present under-represented culturally diverse global music and dance.

Comments on Recommendation

This application demonstrated a high degree of alignment to the goals and intended outcomes of the Projects Grant program and scored above the level required to fulfill the goals and intended outcomes of the program. The recommendation is for funding support at an amount lower than their full request based on similar reductions to other applicants that scored in the same tier.

2025 April Project Grants – Recommendation Summaries

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

	Jurisdiction	Project Category	2025 Request	2025 Recommendation
CHORAL EVOLUTION SOCIETY	Sooke	SS	5,000	0

Funding History: 2023 JanPG: \$3000; 2024 JanPG: \$2500; 2025 JanPG: \$0

Mandate

To promote the musical arts and share the gift of song through performance, education, and community engagement.

Project Summary: *Choral Evolution 2025 Winter Concert Season*

Scheduled for December, these three concerts will be led by our artistic director and accompanied by our pianist plus select professional musicians such as a percussionist, guitarist, bass guitarist, a cellist, a violinist, and a trumpet player. We provide accessible, high-quality performances.

Comments on Recommendation

This application was in the lower tier of all applications received at this granting intake and scored below a satisfactory level in the description of the project, development of artists, payment of artists, personnel, benefits to the region, benefits to equity-seeking groups or underrepresented arts and cultural practices, and project budget. It is not recommended for support at this time. The application could have benefited from more clarity and detail in the application especially about the artistic content of the winter concert series shows.

2025 April Project Grants – Recommendation Summaries

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

	Jurisdiction	Project Category	2025 Request	2025 Recommendation
ENSEMBLE LAUDE CHORAL SOCIETY	Saanich	OT	8,640	0

Funding History: 2012 JanPG: \$1400; 2013 JanPG: \$2300; 2014 JanPG: \$2250;
2015 AprPG: \$2800; 2016 AprPG: \$2400; 2017 AprPG: \$9000;
2019 JanPG: \$3500; 2020 AprPG: \$4500;

Mandate

Our mandate is to perform and record a variety of choral music for the enjoyment and education of audiences, while cultivating and expanding the appreciation of choral music in the community. A key purpose in our constitution is “to educate, encourage, and engage youth in the appreciation of choral music.” As part of this mandate, we provide programs for Emerging Artists and regularly commission new Canadian choral works.

Project Summary: *Podium Showcase and 25th Anniversary Commission*

Podium is a national choral conference taking place in Victoria in 2026, and Ensemble Laude will commission a new choral composition from renowned Canadian composer Sarah Quartel to perform at it, and to share at future concerts.

Comments on Recommendation

This application was in the lower tier of all applications received at this granting intake and scored below a satisfactory level in the description of project, anticipated audience, benefits to the region, and project budget. It is not recommended for support at this time. The application could have benefited from more detail and specificity in the application, especially in regards to performer compensation and venue location, and greater clarity in the responses overall.

2025 April Project Grants – Recommendation Summaries

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

(NEW) ETHNO COLLECTIVE	Jurisdiction	Project Category	2025 Request	2025 Recommendation
	Victoria	OT	10,000	7,500

Funding History: n/a

Mandate

1. To promote and strengthen our rich multicultural diversity and identity through fashion, performing arts, visual arts, and other creative means
2. To raise the visibility of emerging and established designers and artists
3. To create inclusive platforms and events to foster connections between diverse individuals
4. To support new immigrant and refugees through events and projects that celebrate, promote, and strengthen their identity and culture.

Project Summary: *Ethno Fashion Gala*

Funding will support the arts and cultural components of the Ethno Fashion Gala event, a runway event whose purpose is to raise the visibility of emerging and established fashion designers, and visual and performing artists. Designers and artists from diverse nationalities, racial, ethnic and cultural backgrounds will be supported through the creation process and enable them to showcase their work.

Comments on Recommendation

This application demonstrated a high degree of alignment to the goals and intended outcomes of the Projects Grant program and scored above the level required to fulfill the goals and intended outcomes of the program. The recommendation is for funding support at an amount lower than their full request based on similar reductions to other applicants that scored in the same tier.

2025 April Project Grants – Recommendation Summaries

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

THE FIFTY FIFTY ARTS COLLECTIVE	Jurisdiction	Project Category	2025 Request	2025 Recommendation
	Victoria	EXT	10,000	7,000

Funding History: 2012 JanPG: \$2300; 2013 JanPG: \$4500; 2014 AprPG: \$6500;
2016 JanPG: \$6000; 2017 JanPG: \$8000; 2018 JanPG: \$8000;
2019 JanPG: \$6500; 2020 JanPG: \$6000; 2021 JanPG: \$7950;
2022 JanPG: \$7300; 2023 JanPG: \$6375; 2024 JanPG: \$0;
2025 JanPG:\$0

Mandate

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

Project Summary: 2025 Gallery Exhibition Series and Special Programming

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

Comments on Recommendation

This application demonstrated a high degree of alignment to the goals and intended outcomes of the Projects Grant program and scored above the level required to fulfill the goals and intended outcomes of the program. The recommendation is for funding support at an amount lower than their full request based on similar reductions to other applicants that scored in the same tier.

2025 April Project Grants – Recommendation Summaries

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

(NEW) GALIANO CONCERT SOCIETY	Jurisdiction SGI	Project Category EXT	2025 Request 20,000	2025 Recommendation 0
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Funding History: n/a

Mandate

The purposes of the Society are:

- a) to bring high quality musicians to Galiano Island to perform concerts for the Galiano community;
- b) to provide high quality musical concerts for the Galiano community at a reasonable cost; and
- c) to promote and encourage the appreciation and enjoyment of high quality music on Galiano Island.

Project Summary: *Concert Presentation Series '25-'26*

Ten concerts August 2025 – May 2026 at one of two venues. Four concerts feature professional artists from the CRD, and six feature visiting artists from BC and Canada. Several ensembles represent diverse cultures and traditions, broadening the definition of “classical” music.

Comments on Recommendation

This application was in the lower tier of all applications received at this granting intake and scored below a satisfactory level in the description of development of artists, personnel, accessibility, benefits to the region, and project budget. It is not recommended for support at this time. The application could have benefited from more detail in the application and a more modest ask for a defined portion of the annual programming.

2025 April Project Grants – Recommendation Summaries

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

	Jurisdiction	Project Category	2025 Request	2025 Recommendation
GALIANO LITERARY FESTIVAL SOCIETY	SGI	OT	8,900	6,675

Funding History: 2023 AprPG: \$8000; 2024 AprPG: \$9400

Mandate

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

Project Summary: *35th Anniversary of the Gulf Island Poetry Festival*

Matching established senior writers with emerging diverse writers from the CRD and the Lower Mainland; presentations and reading events with a panel discussion, taking place at the Yellowhouse Arts Centre.

Comments on Recommendation

This application demonstrated a high degree of alignment to the goals and intended outcomes of the Projects Grant program and scored above the level required to fulfill the goals and intended outcomes of the program. The recommendation is for funding support at an amount lower than their full request based on similar reductions to other applicants that scored in the same tier.

2025 April Project Grants – Recommendation Summaries

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

	Jurisdiction	Project Category	2025 Request	2025 Recommendation
ISLAND CHAMBER WINDS SOCIETY	SGI	SS	11,400	8,550

Funding History: 2024 INC: \$2500

Mandate

To perform classical and contemporary chamber music for new, diverse, and existing audiences.

Project Summary: *Stormy Seas*

Two concerts, one in Victoria and one on Pender Island, with a repertoire built around themes of weather and storms (literal and metaphorical), featuring pieces by living composers.

Comments on Recommendation

This application demonstrated a high degree of alignment to the goals and intended outcomes of the Projects Grant program and scored above the level required to fulfill the goals and intended outcomes of the program. The recommendation is for funding support at an amount lower than their full request based on similar reductions to other applicants that scored in the same tier.

2025 April Project Grants – Recommendation Summaries

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

	Jurisdiction	Project Category	2025 Request	2025 Recommendation
MINISTRY OF CASUAL LIVING ASSOCIATION	Victoria	EXT	10,000	7,500

Funding History: 2013 JanPG: \$0; 2013 AprPG: \$0; 2014 AprPG: \$3000; 2015 AprPG: \$0; 2016 JanPG: \$2000; 2017 JanPG: \$2000; 2018 AprPG: \$3000; 2019 AprPG: \$4000; 2020 AprPG: 7000; 2021 AprPG: \$7000; 2022 AprPG: \$0; 2023 AprPG: \$12000; 2024 AprPG: \$10000

Mandate

The Ministry of Casual Living (MoCL) is an artist-run centre based in Victoria. Established in 2002 to provide artists from all disciplines with an accessible venue for experimentation, MoCL is committed to promoting critical, self-reflective discourse, and integrating the artistic process into all aspects of everyday life.

MoCL is committed to supporting diversity, inclusion, and purposeful programming for artists from the LGBTQ2S+, persons with disabilities, and the IBPOC communities.

Project Summary: 2025-26 Extended Programming

Studio Gallery Exhibition Program – presenting a series of multidisciplinary group exhibitions, and individual artists' exhibitions and projects, including residencies for 1 arts writer and 2 IBPOC artists exploring research practices in a gallery context.

Program Coordinator working with the Board of Directors to conduct program research, conceptualization, logistics and evaluation of the Studio Gallery program.

Comments on Recommendation

This application demonstrated a high degree of alignment to the goals and intended outcomes of the Projects Grant program and scored above the level required to fulfill the goals and intended outcomes of the program. The recommendation is for funding support at an amount lower than their full request based on similar reductions to other applicants that scored in the same tier.

2025 April Project Grants – Recommendation Summaries

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

	Jurisdiction	Project Category	2025 Request	2025 Recommendation
OTHER GUYS/GUISE THEATRE COMPANY	Victoria	OT	10,500	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; 2025 JanPG: \$0; 2025 GF: \$0

Mandate

The purposes of the Society are:

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

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

Project Summary: *Labyrinth*

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

Comments on Recommendation

This application was in the lower tier of all applications received at this granting intake and scored below a satisfactory level in the description of anticipated audience, accessibility, benefits to the region, and benefits to equity-seeking groups or underrepresented arts and cultural practices. It is not recommended for support at this time. The application could have benefited from more explanation of why last year's grant to fund this project was not realized in the way that it was proposed.

2025 April Project Grants – Recommendation Summaries

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

	Jurisdiction	Project Category	2025 Request	2025 Recommendation
PLANET EARTH POETRY READING SERIES SOCIETY	Victoria	EXT	9,000	9,000

Funding History: 2020 JanPG: \$4000; 2022 AprPG: \$0; 2024 JanPG: \$7560

Mandate

1. to promote and celebrate poetry, writing and literary arts and performance with the Southern Vancouver Island community;
2. to provide an open, respectful and professional atmosphere where any interested person may come and listen to, and participate in, group readings;
3. to support and make space for traditionally under-represented, including Indigenous, BIPOC, poets who experience disability, and 2SLGBTQIA+ poets
4. to grow our audiences to reflect British Columbia's cultural diversity;
5. to educate and increase understanding and appreciation of Canadian poetry and literature, with a particular focus on writers from British Columbia;
6. to advance the study and teaching of writing craft by conducting workshops and retreats taught by accomplished writers;
7. to act as a literary hub for the community for readings, workshops, contests and submission opportunities;
8. to expand access to poetry and writing across British Columbia in collaboration with partners and affiliates;

Project Summary: *Celebrating 30 Years of Poetry*

Free weekly poetry readings, Friday nights from September 2025 to March 2026. Once a month reading in the afternoon at the James Bay New Horizons Centre. Readings begin with an open mic for the public to share their poetry, followed by featured readers from the CRD, with an emphasis on representation from equity-deserving communities.

Comments on Recommendation

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

2025 April Project Grants – Recommendation Summaries

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

	Jurisdiction	Project Category	2025 Request	2025 Recommendation
SALTY BROAD PRODUCTIONS SOCIETY	Victoria	OT	16,000	0

Funding History: 2024 AprPG: \$10000; 2025 GF: \$0

Mandate

To create immersive, experimental theatre experiences in Victoria, BC. The society hopes to cultivate the creation of original performance art, as well as reinvent established works from a fresh perspective. Salty Broad's events and productions are primarily female and queer driven artistic endeavors that aim to support local emerging artists.

Project Summary: *Hail Santa: A Salty Broadmas Holiday Spectacular!*

An interactive holiday theatre show that blends music theatre, drag, and burlesque in a full scale, original musical theatre production. The production prioritizes providing paid opportunities for local artists, with a particular focus on providing opportunities for local BIPOC, LGBTQIA2S+, disabled, neurodivergent, and other underserved communities.

Comments on Recommendation

This application was in the lower tier of all applications received at this granting intake and scored below a satisfactory level in the description of personnel, benefits to the region, and project budget. It is not recommended for support at this time. The application could have benefited from a project budget where a significant projected surplus was not designated for an operating reserve and more explanation for how the remounted show would be innovative.

2025 April Project Grants – Recommendation Summaries

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

	Jurisdiction	Project Category	2025 Request	2025 Recommendation
SOOKE ARTS COUNCIL	Sooke	EXT	5,740	0

Funding History: 2020 EQ: \$0; 2020 AprPG: \$7000; 2023 AprPG: \$5000; 2025 GF: \$0

Mandate

To support and encourage creative participation in the arts and the development of opportunities to perform and exhibit the arts. While acting as a clearing house for access to, and information on, the arts in our community, we also bring to the attention of local, regional, provincial and federal authorities the artistic needs of the community.

Project Summary: *A Caring Picture*

Paying visual artists to produce 12 original works to enhance the palliative care rooms and adjacent family area at the Ayre Manor Seniors Housing facility.

Comments on Recommendation

This application was in the lower tier of all applications received at this granting intake and scored below a satisfactory level in the description of development of artists, personnel, anticipated audience, accessibility, benefits to the region, benefits to equity-seeking groups or underrepresented arts and cultural practices, and project budget. It is not recommended for support at this time. The application could have benefited from more details on the artists who will be commissioned, personnel leading the project, and broader scope of community benefit.

2025 April Project Grants – Recommendation Summaries

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

	Jurisdiction	Project Category	2025 Request	2025 Recommendation
SOOKE COMMUNITY CHOIR	Sooke	EXT	3,000	0

Funding History: 2019 JanPG: \$2000; 2020 JanPG: \$0; 2023 AprPG: \$2075;
2024 AprPG: \$2500

Mandate

The purpose of the society is to promote, develop and enhance the artistic life of the community through music in a welcoming and inclusive environment.

Project Summary: *Sooke Community Choir*

The Sooke Community Choir offers two sessions each year: September to December and January to May, each session culminating two concerts. Youth performers are now highlighted during the performances.

Comments on Recommendation

This application was in the lower tier of all applications received at this granting intake and scored below a satisfactory level in the description of personnel, accessibility, benefits to the region, and benefits to equity-seeking groups or underrepresented arts and cultural practices. It is not recommended for support at this time. The application could have benefited from more detail and specificity in the application and greater clarity in the responses overall.

2025 April Project Grants – Recommendation Summaries

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

	Jurisdiction	Project Category	2025 Request	2025 Recommendation
SOOKE FESTIVAL SOCIETY	Sooke	OT	8,550	5,000

Funding History: 2019 AprPG: \$1500; 2024 AprPG: \$8550

Mandate

We are local, we support local arts.

Project Summary: *Sooke Music and Art Festival*

The Sooke music and art festival (10th edition this year) is a free to attend, family friendly event held in the heart of Sooke each summer. This year we are having a paid showcase on Friday night, followed by the community festival on Saturday, which has kids' activities and workshops. A free opening party will be hosted one week prior, with an all-Sooke-based lineup.

Comments on Recommendation

This application demonstrated a high degree of alignment to the goals and intended outcomes of the Projects Grant program and scored above the level required to fulfill the goals and intended outcomes of the program. The recommendation is for funding support at an amount lower than their full request based on similar reductions to other applicants that scored in the same tier.

2025 April Project Grants – Recommendation Summaries

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

	Jurisdiction	Project Category	2025 Request	2025 Recommendation
THE SOOKE PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY	Sooke	SS	9,300	0

Funding History: 2019 AprPG: \$5000; 2022 AprPG: \$0

Mandate

To support, develop, promote, and enhance an orchestra and a chorus which will benefit the community through providing a high standard of musical performances, encouraging music appreciation, and supporting the development of young musicians.

Project Summary: *Fall and Christmas Concerts*

Fall Concert features the winners of the Jennie and Norman Nelson concerto competition, along with the usual symphonic repertoire. The Christmas Concert features the Sooke Philharmonic Chorus accompanied by the Sooke Philharmonic Orchestra.

Comments on Recommendation

This application was in the lower tier of all applications received at this granting intake and scored below a satisfactory level in the description of payment of artists, accessibility, benefits to the region, benefits to equity-seeking groups or underrepresented arts and cultural practices, and project budget. It is not recommended for support at this time. The application could have benefited from more detail in the application as several responses were only one or two sentences long and contained limited information.

2025 April Project Grants – Recommendation Summaries

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

(NEW) SOOKE RADIO SOCIETY	Jurisdiction	Project Category	2025 Request	2025 Recommendation
	Sooke	EXT	10,000	7,500

Funding History: n/a

Mandate

1. To provide local radio and online streaming programming to the residents of Sooke and the Juan de Fuca region;
2. To provide programming focused on Juan de Fuca region news, events, culture and entertainment
3. To provide workshops and programs to educate the public in:
 - a) Broadcast production and related practices;
 - b) The ethical and legal concepts for broadcasters.

Project Summary: *Sooke Community Radion Expansion and Accessibility Initiative*

This initiative will enhance our capacity by increasing programming hours, expanding our network of volunteer broadcasters, and securing a physical space for in-person recording and training. The plan includes four live music showcases hosted by a local coffee shop.

Comments on Recommendation

This application demonstrated a high degree of alignment to the goals and intended outcomes of the Projects Grant program and scored above the level required to fulfill the goals and intended outcomes of the program. The recommendation is for funding support at an amount lower than their full request based on similar reductions to other applicants that scored in the same tier.

2025 April Project Grants – Recommendation Summaries

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

	Jurisdiction	Project Category	2025 Request	2025 Recommendation
STORY STUDIO WRITING SOCIETY	Victoria	SS	5,950	5,000

Funding History: 2014 IDEA: \$2000; 2022 AprPG: \$3750

Mandate

To inspire, educate and empower youth to be great storytellers.

Project Summary: *Raising Teen Voices: Poetry Workshops and Performance*

A collaborative project between Story Studio's Guild of Young Writers and the Victoria Poetry Project, to engage highschool-aged youth in Greater Victoria in the art of spoken word poetry. Free workshops (in-person and online) will help participants develop poems for potential performance at Victorious Voices festival in April 2026. A chapbook with a selection of poems will also be produced and distributed at the festival.

Comments on Recommendation

This application demonstrated a high degree of alignment to the goals and intended outcomes of the Projects Grant program and scored above the level required to fulfill the goals and intended outcomes of the program. The recommendation is for funding support at an amount lower than their full request based on similar reductions to other applicants that scored in the same tier.

2025 April Project Grants – Recommendation Summaries

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

	Jurisdiction	Project Category	2025 Request	2025 Recommendation
THREE ON THE TREE PRODUCTIONS SOCIETY	SGI	OT	4,000	4,000

Funding History: 2020 AprPG: \$1675; 2023 JanPG: \$2300; 2024 JanPG: \$2000

Mandate

To provide artistic opportunities to the rural community in the way of new works, workshops, and productions. To liaise with the community and other similar minded non-profits to find ways to deliver arts programming to our isolated community.

Project Summary: *Magic Lake Lantern Festival*

A free, all-ages New Year's Eve event that allows local performers and artists to showcase their work. Workshops held the week prior allow the public to create lanterns to join the project in a participatory way.

Comments on Recommendation

This application demonstrated a high degree of alignment to the goals and intended outcomes of the Projects Grant program and scored above the level required to fulfill the goals and intended outcomes of the program. It had a modest request amount (under \$5,000) where reductions would have affected the feasibility of the project. The recommendation is for the full amount or near full amount of the grant request.

2025 April Project Grants – Recommendation Summaries

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

(NEW)	Jurisdiction	Project	2025	2025
TOTALLY TOGETHER		Category	Request	Recommendation
COLLECTIVE ARTS SOCIETY	Victoria	SS	10,000	0

Funding History: n/a

Mandate

The Collective aims to enhance public appreciation of the arts through accessible artistic programming, events, and educational resources to drive long-term artistic and cultural growth.

Project Summary: *Play Along*

A monthly, community-based educational music event. Each session brings together two hosts, a band, and attendees who can participate in a jam session. Instruments will be provided, and each session introduces a different musical genre or cultural tradition.

Comments on Recommendation

This application was in the lower tier of all applications received at this granting intake and scored below a satisfactory level in the description of benefits to the region and project budget. It is not recommended for support at this time. The application could have benefited from a more clarity in description of the audience development, ticket pricing, development of arts in the region.

2025 April Project Grants – Recommendation Summaries

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

	Jurisdiction	Project Category	2025 Request	2025 Recommendation
TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY ARTS COUNCIL	Esquimalt	EXT	15,000	10,000

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;
2025 JanPG: \$0; 2025 GF: \$1500

Mandate

The purpose of TCAC is to:

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

Project Summary: *Esquimalt Lantern Festival 2025 and Memorial Park Music Fest 2025*

ELF is a free, all-ages event that takes place in Gorge Park with local musicians, puppeteers, and installation artists. There are a series of lantern-making sessions to repair and create lanterns, and then the main event begins at sunset. A marching band that leads the crowd around the park in a glowing procession. MPMF is an eight week free concert series at Esquimalt's Memorial Park.

Comments on Recommendation

This application demonstrated a high degree of alignment to the goals and intended outcomes of the Projects Grant program and scored above the level required to fulfill the goals and intended outcomes of the program. The recommendation is for funding support at an amount lower than their full request based on similar reductions to other applicants that scored in the same tier.

2025 April Project Grants – Recommendation Summaries

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

	Jurisdiction	Project Category	2025 Request	2025 Recommendation
VANC. ISLAND VISUAL ARTS SOCIETY - VIVAS	Victoria	SS	10,000	7,500

Funding History: 2023 INC: \$5000; 2024 INC: \$1000; 2024 JanPG: \$0

Mandate

- Acquiring, leasing, and managing properties for the purpose of facilitating artist studios, art exhibitions, and arts education spaces.
 - Providing affordable workspaces for artists and organizations that support the arts.
 - Facilitating interactive arts events, exhibitions, and studio tours.
 - Providing artists with funding and artist residencies.
 - Curating exhibitions and promoting excellence in the field of visual arts.
 - Providing educational venues and programs related to visual arts.
 - Empowering artists with knowledge and resources to help navigate the art world.
- Advocating for artists' needs.

Project Summary: *The Vault Gallery Exhibition Series*

The grant will fund 9 exhibitions in the Vault Gallery. Artists will apply for 3 weeks of exhibition space, with enough pre- and post- exhibition time to accommodate installation art in this unique venue.

Comments on Recommendation

This application demonstrated a high degree of alignment to the goals and intended outcomes of the Projects Grant program and scored above the level required to fulfill the goals and intended outcomes of the program. The recommendation is for funding support at an amount lower than their full request based on similar reductions to other applicants that scored in the same tier.

2025 April Project Grants – Recommendation Summaries

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

	Jurisdiction	Project Category	2025 Request	2025 Recommendation
VESELKA UKRANIAN DANCE ASSOCIATION	Victoria	OT	2,750	2,700

Funding History: 2012 AprPG: \$5000; 2016 JanPG: \$0; 2019 AprPG: \$1300;
2020 AprPG: \$2600; 2022 AprPG: \$5500; 2023 AprPG: \$2000

Mandate

The purpose of Veselka dance is to:

- a) Encourage the quality instruction, practice, and advancement of the art of Ukrainian dance;
- b) Promote, protect, and preserve Ukrainian culture, customs, and traditions.

Project Summary: *Ukrainian Dance Public Outreach Program – School Tours*

We offer free visits to schools in the Greater Victoria area, offering a program of Ukrainian dance performed by our Junior, Intermediate and Senior dancers.

Comments on Recommendation

This application demonstrated a high degree of alignment to the goals and intended outcomes of the Projects Grant program and scored above the level required to fulfill the goals and intended outcomes of the program. It had a modest request amount (under \$5,000) where reductions would have affected the feasibility of the project. The recommendation is for the full amount or near full amount of the grant request.

2025 April Project Grants – Recommendation Summaries

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

	Jurisdiction	Project Category	2025 Request	2025 Recommendation
VICTORIA CHORAL SOCIETY	Victoria	OT	10,000	7,500

Funding History: 2013 JanPG: \$0; 2014 AprPG: \$7500; 2015 AprPG: \$6500;
2016 AprPG: \$6500; 2017 JanPG: \$4000; 2017 AprPG: \$0;
2018 AprPG: \$1000; 2020 JanPG: \$0; 2021 AprPG: \$0;
2023 AprPG: \$6000

Mandate

The purposes of the Society are:

- a) to advance the public's appreciation of the arts by providing the public with high-quality performances of choral works; and
- b) to do such acts as are incidental to the attainment of the above charitable purpose

Project Summary: *Renewal*

A large-scale choral-orchestral concert, to be presented on May 20, 2026, at the University of Victoria's Farquhar Auditorium. The concert explores the theme of renewal through two contrasting works: 1) Brahms' Ein Deutsches Requiem – A profound meditation on the human life cycle, from birth to death, which takes the listener on a journey from anxiety to comfort. 2) A recently commissioned choral work (currently untitled) by Canadian-Iranian composer Iman Habibi – This piece reflects on the environmental impact of deforestation on bird migration, symbolizing the journey from near extinction to rebirth.

Comments on Recommendation

This application demonstrated a high degree of alignment to the goals and intended outcomes of the Projects Grant program and scored above the level required to fulfill the goals and intended outcomes of the program. The recommendation is for funding support at an amount lower than their full request based on similar reductions to other applicants that scored in the same tier.

2025 April Project Grants – Recommendation Summaries

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

	Jurisdiction	Project Category	2025 Request	2025 Recommendation
VICTORIA PHILHARMONIC CHOIR SOCIETY	Victoria	EXT	18,000	0

Funding History: 2012 JanPG: \$7000; 2013 JanPG: \$6000; 2014 JanPG: \$4000;
2015 JanPG: \$6500; 2016 JanPG: \$5000; 2017 AprPG: \$1500;
2018 AprPG: \$3000; 2019 AprPG: \$4000; 2020 AprPG: \$5000;
2022 AprPG: \$4125; 2023 AprPG: \$8000; 2024 AprPG: \$9000

Mandate

The Victoria Philharmonic Choir's (VPC) mandate is to:

- provide Victoria and the capital region with live performances of choral music of the highest attainable standard;
- support the choral needs of our musical community and mount independent choral productions; develop and educate future generations of choral singers and choral audiences;
- nurture a life-long relationship with the rewards of musical arts and raise the public's knowledge and appreciation of choral arts;
- attract serious amateur singers who are eager to continually develop their vocal talent with a commitment to choral excellence;
- provide meaningful employment to young and established professional musicians through VPC projects; create fulfilling concert seasons and summer festivals;
- coordinate and deliver educational programs, workshops and seminars on vocal technique and choral music; and, collaborate with other arts organizations in Victoria to mutually beneficial ends

Project Summary: *Series – VPC 2025/26 3 Concerts*

- 1) Charles Gounod's Mass in G Major on Saint Cecelia's feast day in Victoria;
- 2) Family Christmas Carol Singalong in Oak Bay; and
- 3) Collection of Choral works along the theme of Old and New, in Oak Bay

Comments on Recommendation

This application was in the lower tier of all applications received at this granting intake and scored below a satisfactory level in the description of accessibility, benefits to equity-seeking groups or underrepresented arts and cultural practices, and project budget. It is not recommended for support at this time. The application could have benefited from a tighter project budget with fewer administrative expenses and a more modest ask for a defined portion of the annual programming.

2025 April Project Grants – Recommendation Summaries

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

	Jurisdiction	Project Category	2025 Request	2025 Recommendation
VICTORIA POETRY PROJECT SOCIETY	Victoria	EXT	8,500	8,500

Funding History: 2016 JanPG: \$1500; 2017 JanPG: \$2500; 2018 JanPG: \$3000; 2019 AprPG: \$3500; 2020 AprPG: \$2545; 2022 AprPG: \$3500; 2023 AprPG: \$7500; 2024 AprPG: \$8500

Mandate

The purpose of the society is to advance education in all forms of poetry through sponsoring readings, competitions, festivals and school & community outreach programs.

Project Summary: 2025-26 Spoken Word Programming

21st consecutive season of Tongues of Fire events, with a series of 35 events that include monthly gatherings at Caffe Fantastico, special events (including a Pride Showcase), 8 slam poetry events, and 17 open mic and feature showcase events.

17th annual Victorious Voices Festival, a youth-centred spoken word festival, and Still Victorious, a showcase of festival alumni.

Comments on Recommendation

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

2025 April Project Grants – Recommendation Summaries

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

	Jurisdiction	Project Category	2025 Request	2025 Recommendation
WILLIAM HEAD ON STAGE THEATRE	Metchosin	OT	23,000	12,000

Funding History: 2013 AprPG: \$8000; 2014 AprPG: \$8000; 2015 AprPG: \$10000;
2016 AprPG: \$15500; 2017 AprPG: \$5000; 2018 AprPG: \$12000;
2019 AprPG: \$13000; 2020 AprPG: \$13000; 2021 AprPG: \$16810;
2022 AprPG: \$11250; 2023 AprPG: \$12000; 2024 AprPG: \$16250

Mandate

- To operate a not-for-profit theatre company at William Head Institution.
- To provide education and training to William Head residents in all aspects of theatre arts programming;
- To produce captivating performances for the enjoyment of William Head residents and the surrounding municipal communities;
- To organize annual theatre productions mentored by theatre professionals from the community that have artistic, educational, and therapeutic benefits for all involved.

Project Summary: *Baile de Familia (The Dance of the Family)*

A new theatre work exploring the theme of family—both biological and chosen—through the voices and experiences of incarcerated men. This project will engage participants in a collaborative creative process, with the incarcerated men supported by an outside team of artists from Full Spectrum Arts Society. Together, they will use storytelling, improvisation, music, original song, and physical theatre to explore what family means from their unique perspectives.

Comments on Recommendation

This application demonstrated a high degree of alignment to the goals and intended outcomes of the Projects Grant program and scored above the level required to fulfill the goals and intended outcomes of the program. The recommendation is for funding support at an amount lower than their full request based on similar reductions to other applicants that scored in the same tier.

2025 April Project Grants – Recommendation Summaries

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

	Jurisdiction	Project Category	2025 Request	2025 Recommendation
XCHANGES ARTISTS GALLERY & STUDIOS	Victoria	EXT	12,000	7,400

Funding History: 2016 OP-A: \$11000; 2017 OP-A: \$10000; 2018 OP-A: \$8500;
2019 OP-A: \$9000; 2020 OP-A: \$8500; 2021 OP-A: \$8500;
2022 AprPG: \$7500; 2023 AprPG: \$10000; 2024 AprPG: \$10000

Mandate

To operate, maintain, and manage a cooperatively maintained artist-run centre for the following purposes:

- 1) To promote and support the endeavours of the local artistic community for the benefit of the public at large, within the resources available to the Society;
- 2) To provide a public gallery for local and regional artists for solo, group, and curated exhibitions and other art-related programming opportunities;
- 3) To provide studios to practicing visual artists at affordable rents

Project Summary: *Xchanges Gallery Programming*

Xchanges is requesting support for two artistic programs that take place in our gallery space:

- 1) Annual Gallery Exhibition Program – 9 exhibitions selected through open call and determined by a jury of peers outside the organization, runs Sept – June.
- 2) Community Life Drawing Program – beginner friendly, all ages, year-round programming.

Comments on Recommendation

This application demonstrated a high degree of alignment to the goals and intended outcomes of the Projects Grant program and scored above the level required to fulfill the goals and intended outcomes of the program. The recommendation is for funding support at an amount lower than their full request based on similar reductions to other applicants that scored in the same tier.

**REPORT TO ARTS COMMISSION
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25, 2025**

SUBJECT **Greater Victoria Regional Arts Awards Funding Request**

ISSUE SUMMARY

The ProArt Alliance of Greater Victoria has submitted a funding request to the Arts Commission for a one-time \$6,000 grant to support the Greater Victoria Regional Arts Awards.

BACKGROUND

In 2020, the Greater Victoria Regional Arts Awards included the inaugural CRD Arts Commission Regional Impact Award. The event took place as an entirely online event, due to COVID-19 gathering restrictions.

In 2021, the event had a hybrid presentation, due to COVID-19 gathering restrictions, with an in-person component hosted at the Mary Winspear Centre in Sidney. In 2022, the event was held as an in-person gathering at Kwench; in 2023, the event was held at Victoria City Hall; and in 2024, the event was held in-person in the Wingate Studio of the Baumann Centre.

Funding History

The Greater Victoria Regional Arts Awards receives funding from multiple sources, including local businesses, City of Victoria, and Victoria Foundation. Recipients are selected through an open nomination process that is adjudicated by a jury of peers. The Arts Service has funded the CRD Arts Commission Regional Impact Award since 2020 (see Table 1).

Table 1. Funding for Greater Victoria Regional Arts Awards

Year	Funding from CRD Arts Service	Recipient
2020	\$5,000	Theatre SKAM
2021	\$5,000	Intrepid Theatre & Puente Theatre (collaboration on residency project)
2022	\$6,000	Esquimalt Community Arts Hub
2023	\$6,000	Victoria Arts Council
2024	\$6,000	Greater Victoria Shakespeare Festival
2025	\$6,000 (this request)	TBD

ProArt Alliance is requesting \$5,000 to sponsor the CRD Arts Commission Regional Impact Award and an additional \$1,000 to assist with the production of the event.

ALTERNATIVES

Alternative 1

That \$6,000 be provided to ProArt Alliance of Greater Victoria to support the 2025 Greater Victoria Regional Arts Awards, to convene and celebrate the CRD arts community with \$5,000 dedicated to funding the CRD Arts Commission Regional Impact Award and \$1,000 dedicated to supporting the production of the event.

Alternative 2

That this report be referred to staff for additional information.

IMPLICATIONS

Alignment with CRD Arts & Culture Strategic Plan

Supporting the 2025 Greater Victoria Regional Arts Awards aligns with goal #2 in the Arts & Culture Support Service strategic plan, to “[r]aise awareness of the value of the arts to demonstrate how it contributes to economic sustainability, community vitality, and quality of life.”

Financial Implications

At the direction of the CRD Arts Commission, the budget planning for 2025 allocated \$6,000 for this strategic initiative. This means, unlike prior years, the funding for this initiative will not require permission to access the operating reserve. It will continue to be included in the granting budget of the Arts and Culture Support Service at this level for 2026.

Service Delivery Implications

This initiative is delivered through a partnership with ProArt Alliance of Greater Victoria who handle all aspects of award nominations and event production. Continuing to support the award named for the CRD Arts Commission would be aligned with the CRD Arts and Culture Support Service mission to “Support, champion, and develop the arts.”

CONCLUSION

The Arts Commission has received a funding request from the ProArt Alliance of Greater Victoria for a grant of \$6,000 to support the Greater Victoria Regional Arts Awards with \$5,000 to be dedicated to the CRD Arts Commission Regional Impact Award and \$1,000 to be dedicated to supporting the production of the event, which is in line with previous support for this event. The staff report recommends a grant in the full amount of the request.

RECOMMENDATION

That \$6,000 be provided to ProArt Alliance of Greater Victoria to support the 2025 Greater Victoria Regional Arts Awards to convene and celebrate the CRD arts community with \$5,000 dedicated to funding the CRD Arts Commission Regional Impact Award and \$1,000 dedicated to supporting the production of the event.

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

Appendix A: Letter from ProArt Alliance of Greater Victoria, dated May 31, 2025, re: Request for Impact Award sponsorship, Greater Victoria Regional Arts Awards 2025



510 Fort St, 2nd Floor
Victoria, BC, V8W 1E6
www.proartalliance.ca
info@proartalliance.ca
250-858-3079

Marianne Alto
Chair, Arts Commission
CRD Arts & Culture Support Service
625 Fisgard Street
Victoria, BC V8W 1R7

May 31, 2025

RE: Request for Impact Award sponsorship, Greater Victoria Regional Arts Awards 2025

Dear Marianne,

On behalf of the ProArt Alliance member organizations and the regional arts community, please accept our sincere thanks to the CRD Arts Commission for sponsoring the **CRD Arts Commission Regional Impact Award** at the *2024 Greater Victoria Regional Arts Awards*. Last year's award was presented to the **Greater Victoria Shakespeare Festival**, accepted by Artistic Producer Maddy Hooson-Kirstein, in recognition of the Company's efforts to activate diverse performance sites across multiple municipalities to entertain audiences across the region.

ProArt deeply appreciates the Arts Commission's support of the awards program and your shared commitment to celebrating the cultural vitality of the Capital Region. Recognizing organizations like the Greater Victoria Shakespeare Festival helps highlight the meaningful contributions of arts and culture across our communities.

We are pleased to share that the 2025 Greater Victoria Regional Arts Awards will be an in-person event at a venue within the Capital Region. Building on the momentum of previous years, the program will continue to prioritize community engagement and accessibility.

To support the *2025 CRD Arts Commission Regional Impact Award*, we respectfully request the following:

- Sponsorship of the 2025 CRD Arts Commission Regional Impact Award, including a \$5,000 cash prize.
- A \$1,000 cash contribution toward the operating costs of the awards program.
- Support in promoting the 2025 awards by sharing the nomination package, deadlines, event details, and award results through CRD Arts & Culture's communications and social media channels.

Looking ahead to 2026, we are seeking additional operating support in light of anticipated reductions to the City of Victoria's contributions in line with their proposed cuts next year. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss whether the CRD Arts Commission may be able to provide increased support for next year's program.

We invite the Commission to once again join us in celebrating the exceptional work being created, presented, and supported throughout the Capital Region. Please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions, and we look forward to working with you on this year's awards.

All the best,

Doug Jarvis
Administrator
ProArt Alliance of Greater Victoria
info@proartalliance.ca

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Doug Jarvis", written over a light blue horizontal line.



Sooke Region Museum

Operated by the Sooke Region Historical Society

Mailing Address: Box 774, Sooke, BC V9Z 1H7

Street Address: 2070 Phillips Rd. Sooke, BC V9Z 0Y3

250-642-6351 info@sookeregionmuseum.ca

Historical Exhibits Archives Gift Shop Visitor Centre Lighthouse Moss Cottage

26 May 2025

Dear CRD Arts Commission and Arts Advisory Council,

We recently received the great news that our project, *Sooke Spook* was approved for an IDEA grant this year – Thank You!

This funding is significant, as it will allow us to collaborate with other local organizations to market and offer this event to our community. Accessibility is important to us, and this funding will keep event admission free, with food available to purchase.

When so many of our community members are struggling with rising costs, it's nice to be able to welcome them to their local museum for a fun event, free of charge.

We are grateful for your support and thank you for providing this funding to the Sooke Region Historical Society and to other community organizations, helping to make this a great place to live.

Sincerely,

Michelle Richard
Executive Director

The Sooke Region Museum operates in the territories of the T'Sou-ke, Scia'new, and Pacheedaht peoples, who have inhabited this land since time immemorial.



Pender Island Pride Society (PIPS)
9923 Southlands Drive
Pender Island, BC, V0N 2M3

May 27, 2025

Dear CRD Arts Commission and Arts Advisory Council,

On behalf of the Pender Island Pride Society, I would like to thank you for the CRD Arts and Culture Grant adjudication, your support means a lot to us. The Pender Island Pride Society is run in its totality by volunteers, there are no paid staff, the dedicated effort by everyone involved powers the needed work in educating, recognizing, and celebrating diversity and inclusivity in our island.

We have received your logo, and we will acknowledge the CRD on our advertising materials and social media.

We would like to invite everyone at the Arts Advisory Council and Arts Commission to come to our small but powerful Pride celebrations this August 17th, 2025, so you can see firsthand what your generous contribution is allowing us to manifest, Pride on Pender Island is a beautiful and colourful communal celebration, and everyone really looks forward to it.

Sincerely yours,

David Ramos

David Ramos
Secretary | Pender Island Pride Society



May 29, 2025

Dear Friends at CRD Arts & Culture,

On behalf of First Peoples' Cultural Foundation, I am writing to express our gratitude for your gift to Indigenous communities who are safeguarding and sharing their arts, language, and cultural heritage for generations to come. We recognize this gift was made in honour of Sue Donaldson, someone who dedicated her life to uplifting arts and culture throughout these lands. We are deeply touched by this tribute.

This past year, First Peoples' Cultural Foundation celebrated 20 years of FirstVoices, an online collaborative platform where Indigenous communities manage, learn, share and celebrate their languages. We've grown our partnerships nationally and globally to advocate for Indigenous-led philanthropy; and contributed to more in person workshops and programming to bring communities together as they reconnect, rebuild, and strengthen their languages, arts, and cultural heritage practices. We know that connection to ancestral language and cultural identity increases health and wellness of Indigenous communities.

"The funding I received for cultural practices was life changing. My mentor was so helpful in all aspects of cedar harvesting and creating as well as stripping and storing. I have already started sharing these teachings with the communities I visit to assist with basket weaving. I look forward to sharing what I have learned."

~ Arts Grant Recipient from Tseshaht First Nation

This is the work of generations - the groundwork for language, arts and cultural heritage revitalization was laid by those before us and will be carried forward by those after us. Our current endeavours are removing barriers for a more robust and healthier future for the next language speakers, artists, and cultural knowledge keepers.

We are so grateful that you have joined us on this pathway supporting Indigenous-led revitalization efforts to take action in partnership with Indigenous peoples and to promote reconciliation.

Wálas gǎxsixǎ - (Thank you)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Málágus'.

Málágus Gerald Lawson
Board Chair, First Peoples' Cultural Foundation